




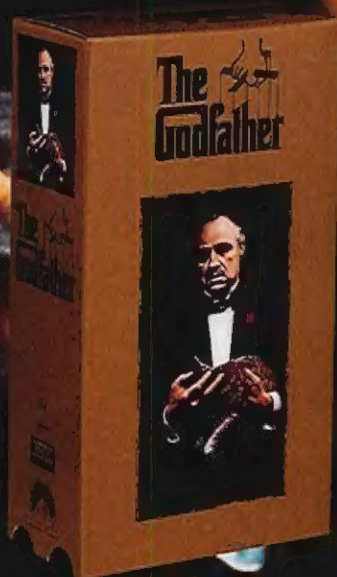
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R NOTHING

ERICA'S PRIME-TIME COMEDY KING

WRITTEN BY
KRISTEN BALDWIN,
MIKE FLAHERTY,
A.J. JACOBS,
MARY KAY SCHILLING,
AND KEN TUCKER

EIGHT YEARS INTO THE SHOW, Julia Louis-Dreyfus' Elaine Benes articulated the essence of *Seinfeld* quite nicely. She was exasperated with her good buddy Jerry Seinfeld—nothing new there; the glue that holds their relationship together is exasperation, alternately amused and angry. But this time, Elaine felt a summing-up was called for; she needed to make a grand expostulation, and so she did, by proclaiming "I can't spend the rest of my life coming into this stinking apartment every 10 minutes to pore over the excruciating minutiae of every single daily event!"

But of course, excruciating minutiae are what this show exists to examine, to fuss over, to spin comedic gold from. And Elaine *will* keep coming into that stinking apartment (which, by the way, probably smells more like still-misty Lysol, given Jerry's pathological cleanliness) for as long as *Seinfeld* exists. She can't help it; she loves Jerry, George Costanza (Jason Alexander), and Cosmo Kramer (Michael Richards) every bit as much as she sometimes loathes them. And besides, after a first-rate season like the one just concluded, who can deny that the comedic aroma of apartment 5A is still powerfully piquant?

Before you cut into the meat of this special *Seinfeld* package—a complete episode guide to the series' run so far and interviews with the characters behind the scenes—it behooves us to think for a minute about the nature of friendship as it is reflected, fractured, and ground into the dirt by Jerry, George, Elaine, and Kramer. The bond between these niggling, nudging four musketeers (their battle cry might be "All for one and one for me!") is a group dynamic rooted in jealousy, rage, insecurity, despair, hopelessness, and a touching lack of faith in one's fellow human beings.

For a show whose plots often turn on the surreal (this season's the-gang-goes-to-a-cockfight episode; the one where George has a little place built underneath his desk to escape the world; Elaine meeting the Bizarro Jerry, George, and Kramer), it has been the distinctive achievement of cocreators Seinfeld and Larry David to offer us a portrait of late-20th-century urban friendship that is actually more *realistic* than any ever created on a television series, sitcom, or drama. (It should also be noted here that the '96-'97 season just past was *Seinfeld*'s first without the writing of David. If the post-David *Seinfeld* now lacks that subtle degree of manic angst that distinguished his best work, the

show has made up for it with an increase in belly laughs as solid as any the series has produced.)

Like lots of good pals, Jerry, George, Elaine, and Kramer are acutely, quiveringly attuned to each other's strengths and weaknesses. They understand in their very different bones that someone you know well is also someone you can fight with, argue over, and sell out far more effectively than a mere acquaintance, or even an enemy. (That's why Wayne Knight's Newman is such a slippery recurring foe for our gang; he's not in their loop—he's the malicious, blubbery Other.) These chums are united by common quests—for money, for romance, for the perfect apartment. There's a whiff of desperation about the foursome's need for one another (maybe *that's* what's stinking up Jerry's apartment), which is more than a little pathetic. But that it is made *hilariously* pathetic gives the show its unique sitcom tension.

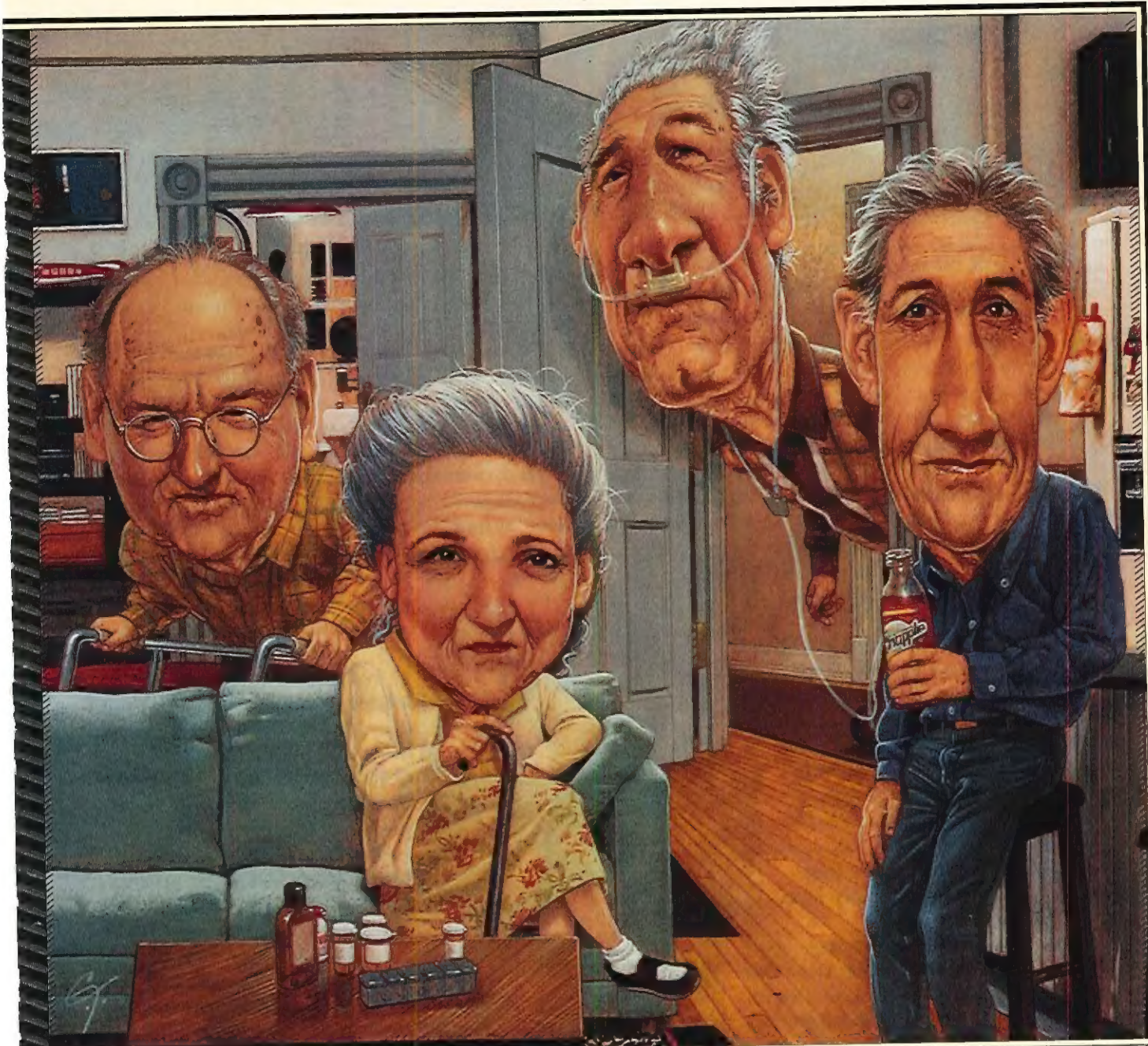
Let's break down the particulars of their codependency:

JERRY, because of his career as a successful stand-up, is the most outwardly normal of the bunch and the most at ease with the everyday world. But just below his easygoing smirk lie distrust, misanthropy ("I hate everybody!" he once exulted), and lowbrow taste. ("You know, it is so sad," Elaine has said to him. "All of your knowledge of high culture comes from Bugs Bunny cartoons.") Jerry's most frequent position within the foursome is to be genially aloof, the sardonic commentator on the peculiar actions of his amigos. Jerry needs them to be active so that he can remain passive.

GEORGE, or as Jerry says, "George Louis Costanza, my oldest friend," is a fervid loser: Pathologically dishonest ("I lie every second of the day. My whole life is a sham," he has admitted more than once), stingy (hates to pick up a check or chip in for a taxi), and insecure (bald, short, pudgy). Then, too, he is—read into this what you will, remote-control Freudians—obsessed with the bathroom, a throne for the king of "privacy issues." But George's most consistent trait is his breathtaking selfishness. If the characters in *Seinfeld* confirm middle America's notion of what New Yorkers are like—one reason for the show's heartland success, I'm convinced—George deserves to be mayor.

ELAINE, Jerry's former girlfriend, and a single woman who can't settle on a career, is nonetheless the most admirable of this bunch for her sheer enthusiasm, aggression (Jerry calls her "The Queen of Confrontation"), and pick-yourself-up pluck. This, even though romance always lets her down: Where Jerry primarily dates beautiful, levelheaded women who dump him most often for being a supercilious drag, Elaine goes out with a ceaseless procession of loser weirdos (Crazy Joe Davola; the doctor who held her tongue between his fingers on a date; the pompous Maestro), thus unconsciously guaranteeing her continued association with Jerry, George, and Kramer.

THE BOND BETWEEN THESE NIGGLING, NUDGING FO
JEALOUSY, RAGE, INSECURITY, HOPELESSNESS, AND A TO



KRAMER is a volcano with a bad hairdo, always ready to blow—with petulant anger, with pent-up libido (ever notice that only Elaine or the K-man regularly partake of sex for the sheer, guilt-free pleasure of it?), or with mad joy over his latest harebrained moneymaking scheme. A moocher with morals (who else would adopt a stretch of highway just so he could keep it clean?), he's actually quite brilliant in his steadfast adherence to his own code of behavior, less idiot than savant. Richards himself got to the heart of Kramer when he told the *Los Angeles Times* re-

ILLUSTRATION BY C.F. PAYNE

cently, "The real key came about eight or nine shows in. I had been playing Kramer as if he were slow-witted—always one step behind.... Then I learned to play Kramer as if he were blocks ahead of what everyone's saying, and I had him." ("That's karma," Elaine once said, describing some unforeseen debacle. "No, that's Kramer," replied Jerry.)

These are our friends, our dear anti-*Friends*. What say we all open a new box of cereal, pass around some bowls, and relive the good times? —Ken Tucker

**OUR MUSKETEERS IS A GROUP DYNAMIC ROOTED IN
UCHING LACK OF FAITH IN ONE'S FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS**

THE SEINFELD CHRONICLES

AN OBSESSIVE-COMPULSIVE VIEWER'S GUIDE TO ALL 143 EPISODES
BY MIKE FLAHERTY & MARY KAY SCHILLING

"I WOULD COMPARE WRITING SEINFELD TO WRITING THE TALMUD—A DARK TALMUD. YOU HAVE A LOT OF BRILLIANT MINDS EXAMINING A THOUGHT OR ETHICAL QUESTION FROM EVERY POSSIBLE ANGLE."

THUS SPAKE ONETIME SEINFELD WRITER LARRY Charles. And upon reaching the end of our exhausting, exhilarating quest—to view, synopsise, and critique all eight seasons of the most successful, irreverent, and giddily unpredictable sitcom of its time—we find more than a little resonance in Charles' Talmudic analogy. In documenting the travails of Jerry, George, Elaine, and Kramer, we have, in fact, delineated the history of a long-suffering people. Far from being about nothing, it's a tale rich with small triumphs, eternal truths, and dogged struggles in the face of an indifferent world.

It's a story that was almost never told. NBC originally passed on *Seinfeld* after test audiences deemed the 1989 pilot episode "weak." It only lives thanks to Rick Ludwin, NBC senior VP of specials and late night, whose faith was so strong he gave of his own budget to create four more episodes, which aired in the summer of '90. By January 1991, *Seinfeld* was a mid-season replacement, inaugurating an uninterrupted six-year run that culminated in its current Must See Thursday slot.

And now, as the cast—well paid though stingily honored (only nine Emmys, including one for Best Comedy, two for Richards, one for Louis-Dreyfus, and two for writing)—prepares for its ninth season, *Seinfeld* has, indeed, evolved into something as close to a religion as pop culture allows. The 30

million or so who watch fresh episodes on Thursday nights have made it a top five Nielsen show for four consecutive years—and enabled NBC to retain its No. 1 standing. The millions who catch reruns have propelled it to No. 5 in national syndication. Such numbers bespeak a fervent following, bent on studying, dissecting, and interpreting *Seinfeld*'s bizarre dogma. To wit: **INERTIA SHALL PREVAIL.** Despite the foursome's many trials, no lessons are learned, no maturing allowed. "That's part of the key to the show," says

Seinfeld. Adds Charles: "The characters *gleefully* do not grow." **NOTHING IS SACRED.** Not the hearing impaired, the mentally and physically challenged, priests, rabbis, any number of ethnic groups, constipation, oral sex, or onanism.

NO GOOD EVER COMES FROM HELPING ONE'S FELLOW MAN. Witness the results of Jerry's efforts on behalf of restaurateur Babu Bhatt, Kramer's support of a local shoe-repair shop, and George's helping hand to a haberdashery's security guard.

LOOK TO THE PAST FOR INSPIRATION (HEY, ABBOTT!). Though praised for boundary-breaking modernity, Seinfeld readily admits that his show's sensibility was forged some 40 years ago: "It [wasn't] conscious," he says, "but when we got into the swing of the show, we

realized, This is like *The Abbott and Costello Show* from '51 to '52." Bud and Lou's spirit is evident in everything from *Seinfeld*'s dizzily deadpan comic rhythm to its wacky array of maligned bureaucrats and wrathful fruit vendors and barbers.

DEATH BE NOT BAD. The only thing stranger than death's prominence is the utter lack of compassion it elicits.

NO REASON IS TOO TRIVIAL FOR BREAKING UP, whether it's stinginess with punctuation or being beaten in chess. The list goes on and on (see page 37).

A SHORT, STOCKY, SLOW-WITTED BALD MAN CAN BE A CHICK MAGNET. Fact: George Costanza—self-proclaimed loser

among losers—has dated a wide array of fetching women. A contradiction that Seinfeld refuses to explain: "You don't take apart the frog to see how he jumps."

THE CRAZIEST PERSON IS THE SANEST OF ALL. Ostensibly the resident weirdo (a.k.a. "hipster doofus"), Kramer may actually be the most together. Seinfeld concurs: "He knows what he wants and goes after it. He's not reflective...he's got peace of mind. We secretly envy him."

Kramer's the least of *Seinfeld*'s ironies. We are, after all, celebrating a hit show revolving around four venal, dishonest, selfish, even hateful people. "That's become very vogue to say, but that's only on one level," notes Seinfeld. "There's a great warmth beneath the surface of these characters. Just the fact of what we forgive each other shows you that."

And the fact that we keep coming back for more. Bear in mind that the following synopses are mere sketches, mental benchmarks for your viewing pleasure. If we had fully detailed each labyrinthine episode, you'd be holding a book, not a magazine. And, no doubt, you will quibble with our harsher critiques. But why should we be any less judgmental than the show's four minutiae-minded harpies? We have, after all, been remade in their image. —MF



COMEDY ROOTS

IN '89, BEFORE KRAMER'S HAIR WENT NORTH, BELOW, JERRY'S ROLE MODEL AS GEORGE ONCE POINTED OUT: "JERRY IS A MAN WHOSE LIFE REVOLVES AROUND SUPERMAN AND CEREAL."



-SEASON ONE-

EPISODE 1

THE SEINFELD CHRONICLES

FIRST AIRD 7/5/89 WRITERS Larry David/

Jerry Seinfeld DIRECTOR Art Wolff SYN-

OPSIS Bearing the sitcom's original title, "The Seinfeld Chronicles," TV's longest-running art-imitates-life eavesdrop begins minus Elaine, with a different theme, a hangout called Pete's Luncheonette, a flat-topped Kramer, and Jerry living in a studio (with a skylight!). What is firmly in place is the trademark show-about-nothing concept, by which plot points serve largely as launchpads for the loopy, nit-picky digressions that occupy these friends. As with many of the early episodes, it's heavily punctuated with clips from Jerry's "Did you ever notice this, did you ever notice that" stand-up routine—apparently meant to drive home the connection between his reality and his shtick. The comic MacGuffin here is Jerry's anxiety over the impending overnight visit of a woman he met while gigging in Michigan: Is it a love connection or just a friendly crash? CRITIQUE On the downside, the George and Kramer characters are woefully unformed; George's whiny neurotic is a blatant Woody Allen rip-off, and

Kramer's dazed inarticulate dolt a veritable nod to Harpo Marx. Still, while no classic, the initial outing is surprisingly fresh after all these years. B

EPISODE 2

THE STAKEOUT

FIRST AIRD 5/31/90 WRITERS David/

Seinfeld DIR. Tom Cherones SYNOPSIS

Jerry offers to attend a birthday party with ex-girlfriend, now buddy Elaine Marie Benes (he'll do it if she'll accompany him to a dreaded family wedding—establishing the there's-always-a-catch element to Jerry's friendships). At the party, our hero becomes infatuated with Vanessa (Lynn Clarke), a friend of a friend of Elaine's. Due to post-breakup politics, he feels he can't ask Elaine for Vanessa's number, and is reduced to lingering outside her office. INTRODUCES Jerry's parents, Helen (Liz Sheridan) and beltless-trench-coat inventor

Morty (Phil Bruns, soon to be replaced by Barney Martin). HISTORIC MOMENTS Debut of mainstay director Cherones, apartment 5A, the show's distinctive, funky-percussive theme song (written by Jonathan Wolff), and Liar Boy George's all-purpose pseudonym and sometime alter ego, Art Vandelay—usually an importer-exporter. CRITIQUE A painfully realistic take on the lovers-to-friends transition that should have been more comically fruitful. B-

EPISODE 3

THE ROBBERY

FIRST AIRD 6/7/90 WRITER Matt Gold-

man DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Real estate agent George offers Jerry a

shot at a dream pad—then decides he wants it too. Elaine—forever in search of the perfect apartment—stands to inherit Jerry's place if he moves. Typically, by episode's end, everybody loses. HISTORIC MOMENT First real entrance from Kramer. CRITIQUE Worth it for Jerry and George—who, as usual, attempt to resolve conflict in the most adolescent manner possible: by "choosing." B

EPISODE 4

MALE UNBONDING

FIRST AIRD 6/14/90 WRITERS David/

Seinfeld DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS The

initial exploration of the male-friendship-as-relationship motif, as Jerry decides to "break up" with tiresome, self-involved Joel (Kevin Dunn) but can't bring himself to do it. CRITIQUE A pointed look at a staple dysfunction: These are four people who can't shut up, yet loathe actual communication. (George: "She says, 'We have to talk.'" Jerry: "The four worst words in the English language.") B+

EPISODE 5

THE STOCK TIP

FIRST AIRD 6/21/90 WRITERS David/

Seinfeld DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS See

George persuade Jerry to invest \$2,500 in a stock he heard about from a Wall Street contact. See Jerry panic and pull out after losing a mint. See George hang tough and reap a windfall. See allergic Elaine lose out to new beau Robert's cats. HISTORIC MOMENT The Superman leitmotiv debuts with two references to Jerry's favorite comic-book hero. CRITIQUE Weighed down by a ho-hum main plot—achingly familiar from sitcoms past and insufficiently warped here. C

ELAINE ON JERRY:

“You know, sometimes when I think you're the shallowest man I've ever met, you somehow manage to drain a little more out of the pool.”

ILLUSTRATION BY MARK SUMMERS

-SEASON TWO-

EPISODE 6 THE EX-GIRLFRIEND

FIRST AIRED 1/23/91 WRITERS David/

Seinfeld DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS

Jerry develops a

"psychosexual" need

for George's ex, Mar-

lene (Tracy Kolis).

Elaine gets into the

first of many paranoid

confrontations, this time

with a neighbor who has

stopped saying hello. HIS-

TORIC MOMENT Our first

glimpse of Jerry

in his car. (These

people regularly

drive in Manhat-

tan? They truly are

nuts.) Kramer inaugurates

two trademark obsessions:

fresh fruit and golf. CRITIQUE

The series' most multifac-

eted (if not most engaging)

narrative so far—a sign of

things to come. B

EPISODE 7

THE PONY REMARK

FIRST AIRED 1/30/91 WRITERS David/Sein-

feld DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS At his

elderly cousin Manya's 50th-anniver-

sary party, Jerry makes a disparag-

ing remark about people who

had ponies as kids. When

Manya, a former pony own-

er, takes offense, then

proceeds to drop dead,

Jerry is racked with

guilt. INTRODUCES Barney

Martin as Jerry's father, as

well as the delightfully cantankerous

Uncle Leo (Len Lesser), avid fan of

cousin Jeffrey (someone whom,

along with much-mentioned Kramer

bud Bob Sacamano, we will never

see. Says Seinfeld: "They've become

too large in our imagination for any-

one to fill those shoes"). CRITIQUE Sein-

feld at its mordant best. A-

EPISODE 8

THE JACKET

FIRST AIRED 2/6/91 WRITERS David/Sein-

feld DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Almost as

inexplicable as Jerry's shelling out

countless hundreds for a simple

suede jacket is the enveloping sense

of confidence it bestows upon him.

Both are imperiled by the arrival of

Elaine's irascible novelist father, Al-

ton Benes (Lawrence Tierney). HIS-

TORIC MOMENT Establishes Elaine's first

job (manuscript reader at Pendant

Publishing) but little else about her immediate family. A few things we will learn: She's from Towson, Md., has a sister in St. Louis, and an uncle who worked in the Dallas book depository with Lee Harvey Oswald. CRITIQUE Jerry and George's torturous hotel-lobby meeting with Mr. Benes is a squirm-inducing joy. B+

EPISODE 9

THE PHONE MESSAGE

FIRST AIRED 2/13/91 WRITERS David/Sein-

feld DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS A blown

invitation for "coffee" and an unre-

turned phone call from a could-be-

girlfriend prompt George's insecur-

ities to run amok. Jerry dates, then

is dumped by, a woman because

she's a fan of a Dockers com-

mercial (ironically, he gripes,

"They're talking about nothing!").

CRITIQUE The first of two consecutive

and classic George angst-fests, as

Jason Alexander—master of fran-

tic venom—begins to make the

character his own. B+

EPISODE 10

THE APARTMENT

FIRST AIRED 4/4/91 WRITER Peter Mehl-

man DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Jerry of-

fers to hook Elaine up with a dirt-

cheap apartment in his building,

then immediately reconsiders.

George, believing women to be

more attracted to married men,

sports a wedding band. HISTORIC MO-

MENTS The premiere of Elaine's pa-

tented "Get out!" shove, and the

much-referred-to "pop-in" (unex-

pected visits—as in, Elaine will be

popping in all the time if she moves

upstairs). CRITIQUE George's profound

self-hatred is now in full bloom

("Please, a little respect, for I am

Costanza, Lord of the Idiots!").

Kramer's input, meanwhile, re-

mains limited to off-the-wall, often

annoying cameos. Which reminds

us: Why in the world has Alexander

been denied an Emmy, while

Richards has scored two? B+

EPISODE 11

THE STATUE

FIRST AIRED 4/11/91 WRITER Larry Charles

DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Elaine's editing

of arrogant Finnish novelist Rava

(Nurit Koppel) leads Jerry to a

housekeeper: Rava's flakily high-

brow beau, Ray (Michael D. Con-

way). When a family memento (cov-

eted by George) disappears, Kramer

plays cop to get it back from Ray.

CRITIQUE Even Seinfeld's bit players

must have some grounding in real-

ity—you need to love to hate them.

Ultimately, there's no redeeming

comic payoff to Rava's and Ray's

weirdness. C-

EPISODE 12

THE REVENGE

FIRST AIRED 4/18/91 WRITER David DIR.

Cherones SYNOPSIS George quits his

job at Rick-Bar Properties when he

GEORGE ON ELAINE:

“She’s a pretty woman, kinda short, big wall of hair, face like a frying pan”

ILLUSTRATION BY ROBERT RISKO

is banned from the executive toilet, then reconsiders. When the boss won't rehire him, George enlists Elaine to "slip him a Mickey" at a company party. Jerry and Kramer pursue a vendetta of their own at the Laundromat. **INTRODUCES** Newman, sort of: He's heard but not seen as he threatens a suicidal leap—from the second floor. **CRITIQUE** Although neat for its parallel plotting and George's hilariously clueless career chats with Jerry, "Revenge" is not so sweet. **C**

EPISODE 13

THE HEART ATTACK

FIRST AIRED 4/25/91 **WRITER** Charles Dier. **Cherones SYNOPSIS** After watching a TV show on heart attacks, suggestible George believes he's having one; when a hospital visit proves it's just tonsillitis, miserly George opts for Kramer's holistic healer, Tor Alkman (Stephen Tobolowsky), and finds you get what you pay for. **CRITIQUE** What *Seinfeld* excels at is finding the eccentric in the apparently normal. A kooky New Age doctor? That's hitting the broad side of a barn. **D**

EPISODE 14

THE DEAL

FIRST AIRED 5/2/91 **WRITER** David Dier. **Cherones SYNOPSIS** Couch-bound and bored watching the "naked station," Jerry and Elaine decide to have sex—albeit with friendship-protecting ground rules. All is well until Elaine's birthday, when Jerry must come up with a gift appropriate to their now-nebulous connection. **CRITIQUE** Jerry and Elaine's circuitous verbal dance pondering the relative worth of "that [sex] versus this [the friendship]" is sublime. The show's ability to be both explicit and vague will become a hallmark. **B+**

EPISODE 15

THE BABY SHOWER

FIRST AIRED 5/16/91 **WRITER** Charles Dier. **Cherones SYNOPSIS** Two absurdly disparate events—a baby shower and an illegal cable-TV installation (engineered by Kramer)—converge in Jerry's apartment on a fateful Saturday. And George has a bone to pick with the prospective mommy, an egocentric performance artist who once humiliated him with chocolate syrup. **CRITIQUE** After a promising opening, this baby quickly degenerates into heavy-handed farce. **D**

EPISODE 16

THE CHINESE RESTAURANT

FIRST AIRED 5/23/91 **WRITERS** David/Seinfeld. **Cherones SYNOPSIS** En route to a *Plan 9 From Outer Space* screening, Jerry, George, and Elaine wait for a table in a Chinese restaurant. **CRITIQUE** The epitome of the show-about-nothing concept. George is at his pressure-cooker best, but it's Elaine—famished and in high dudgeon—who is the centerpiece. **A-**

CONSPICUOUS CONSUMPTION

JERRY AND THE GANG GET ON THE BRAND WAGON

IF NOT THE FIRST SHOW TO FLAUNT name brands, *Seinfeld* is certainly the most brazen in its use of products as comedy fodder. Indeed, four consumer items have driven plots as prominently as guest stars: Junior Mints, Drake's Coffee Cake, Pez, and Snickers. Others—like Snapple, Dannon yogurt, and 25 or so cereals—have made nonspeaking cameos. "There was no thought of, 'Oh, if we say Yoo-hoo, we'll get a case of Yoo-hoo.' We never did it in order to get things," claims former writer Larry Charles. "We should have said Rolex watches. We should have cashed in." (Like they need more money.)

So why do they do it? Realism. "It always bothered me when Archie Bunker reached for his can of beer and it was some non-brand," says Glenn Padnick, president of Castle Rock Television, the show's studio. "For a second it took you out of the show." *Seinfeld's* writers also prefer real products because, in comedy, specificity is funny. Here are answers to some other burning product questions: **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE REFERENCE IS NEGATIVE—AS WHEN JERRY DISSED LEVI'S DOCKERS PANTS ADS?**

"Virtually every [company with a] product that is mentioned on our show, even if it was semi-unflattering, has loved it," says Padnick. The show asks for permission to use a brand name only if Castle Rock's lawyers think the company may take offense. So far, the only one that's had a beef with a *Seinfeld* mention was Chef Boyardee, which balked at a script (episode 115) that had Kramer feeding Beefaroni to a horse—with odoriferous results. The name was changed to Beef-A-Reeno.

HAS AN ADVERTISER EVER GOTTEN MAD WHEN A COMPETITOR'S NAME

WAS MENTIONED? No, but NBC's standards and practices division polices the product mentions in an effort to avoid the appearance of gratuitous plugging—as it did with "The Contest," a.k.a. the masturbation episode. "We were expecting pages and pages [of notes]," says Padnick. "But literally the only comment from the censors was 'Please delete a few references to Snapple.'" Avoiding gratuitous plugging is also why so finicky a consumer as Jerry drinks Diet Coke and Diet Pepsi. "We're not looking to aid any [brand]," says Padnick. "Jerry

probably would have a favorite soft drink, but we just can't do that."

JERRY'S MOST OBVIOUS ACCESSORY—HIS SNEAKERS—ARE NEVER MENTIONED BY NAME. HOW COME? Since real-life Jerry, an avowed sneaker buff, gets free shoes from Nike, to point out the brand would constitute "product placement" (taking money or gifts in exchange for a product mention), and the show would then have to credit Nike after each episode. (Note, however, two rather blatant references to the athletic-wear company: Jerry sports a Nike sweatshirt in episodes 92 and 137.)

OKAY, SO WHAT'S THE

DEAL WITH ROLD GOLD PRETZELS?

Jason Alexander's Rold Gold TV ad spots first aired in September 1993—the same month he was seen eating the pretzels on the show (in episode 64). Isn't that a little fishy? "That was definitely a coincidence," says Monica Neufang, PR manager at Frito-Lay, parent company of Rold Gold. "As the number-one pretzel in the U.S., it's natural that if you're going to grab for a pretzel to be on the show, you're going to go with the leader." As Jerry might say, We don't think so. —Kristen Baldwin



GEORGE ON KRAMER:

“His whole life is a fantasy camp. People should plunk down \$2,000 to live like him for a week. Do nothing. Fall ass backwards into money. Mooch food off your neighbors. And have sex without dating.”

ILLUSTRATION BY ANITA KUNZ

EPISODE 17
THE BUSBOY

FIRST AIRED 6/26/91 WRITERS David/Seinfeld DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS George inadvertently gets a busboy (David Labiosa) fired, then haplessly tries to make amends. Elaine reluctantly entertains a guest from Seattle (“He’s a wonderful guy, but I hate

his guts,” she says with characteristic irony). HISTORIC MOMENTS First reference to Kramer as the K-Man. We learn that George went to fat camp. CRITIQUE Aside from one physically inspired moment of Elaine mania, there’s nary a laugh in this loser. D

—SEASON THREE—

EPISODE 18
THE NOTE

FIRST AIRED 9/18/91 WRITER David DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Visits to massage therapists by Jerry, Elaine, and George lead to (1) Jerry being suspected of child abuse, (2) his dentist be-

ing investigated for insurance fraud, and (3) George questioning his heterosexuality (“I think it moved”). HISTORIC MOMENT We learn that shy-bladder George is a “stall man.” CRITIQUE Besides laughs galore, it’s the first truly democratic episode: Even Kramer finally gets a slam “dunk” of a subplot (Joe DiMaggio at Dinky Donuts). A-

EPISODE 19

THE TRUTH

FIRST AIRED 9/25/91 WRITER Elaine Pope DIR. David Steinberg SYNOPSIS “I’ve driven women to lesbianism before, but never to a mental institution,” says George, whose atypical, brutally honest breakup with flaky accountant Patrice (Valerie Mahaffey) provokes a meltdown that lands her in the “nervous” hospital. The real crisis, however, is that she’s got Jerry’s tax records and he’s being audited. CRITIQUE A killer George, but not much for anyone else besides Mahaffey, who has fun with her imploding New York City trendoid. B-

EPISODE 20

THE PEN

FIRST AIRED 10/2/91 WRITER David DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Elaine accompanies Jerry to the Sunshine State, where his dad is being feted by the condo association. When Jerry accepts an “astronaut pen” (it writes upside down!) from neighbor Jack Klompus, it triggers a retirement-community scandal. Elaine, meanwhile, is hobbled by the Seinfelds’ pull-out couch. INTRODUCES Sandy Baron as crusty troublemaker Jack. CRITIQUE Oddly, George and Kramer are not missed in this stellar (Stellar!) outing. The only thing funnier than Elaine’s exquisite distress is Jerry’s absurd reassurances. When she’s dreading the three-day visit after one night, he rationalizes, “Subtract showers and meals—it’s like 20 minutes!” A+

EPISODE 21

THE DOG

FIRST AIRED 10/9/91 WRITER David DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS On a plane trip, Jerry’s drunken seatmate takes ill, saddling Jerry with custody of his mutt, Farfel. The unwanted guest makes him a prisoner in his own house. HISTORIC MOMENT We learn that Jerry gargles (very quietly) six times a day. CRITIQUE A contrived plot finds some redemption in “friends-in-law” George and Elaine, who, forced to bond without Jerry, discover he’s all they have in common. C+

EPISODE 22

THE LIBRARY

FIRST AIRED 10/16/91 WRITER Charles DIR. Joshua White SYNOPSIS Jerry is slapped with a 20-year overdue notice for *Tropic of Cancer*.

The ensuing investigation sparks a traumatic “memory burn” for George: His sadistic high school gym teacher, Mr. Heyman (Biff Yeager)—he of the “little baked bean” teeth and atomic wedgies—is now a vagrant who calls the library steps home. CRITIQUE A sure candidate for the pantheon, thanks in large part to Philip Baker Hall’s hard-boiled library gumshoe, Lt. Bookman (!), and his rapid-fire, *Dragnet*-esque exchanges with Jerry. Also legendary: Heyman’s malapropism for George’s surname: “Can’tstandya.” A+

EPISODE 23

THE PARKING GARAGE

FIRST AIRED 10/30/91 WRITER David DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Scenes from a mall, as the foursome search for Kramer’s car in a parking garage while schlepping the world’s cheapest air conditioner. HISTORIC MOMENT Jerry and George are apprehended while relieving themselves against a wall. CRITIQUE In a companion piece to “Chinese Restaurant,” the friends find themselves trapped “like rats in some experiment,” allowing for plenty of what they do best: pseudo-existential rambling. That said, the (admittedly intentional) claustrophobia is ultimately exasperating. B-

EPISODE 24

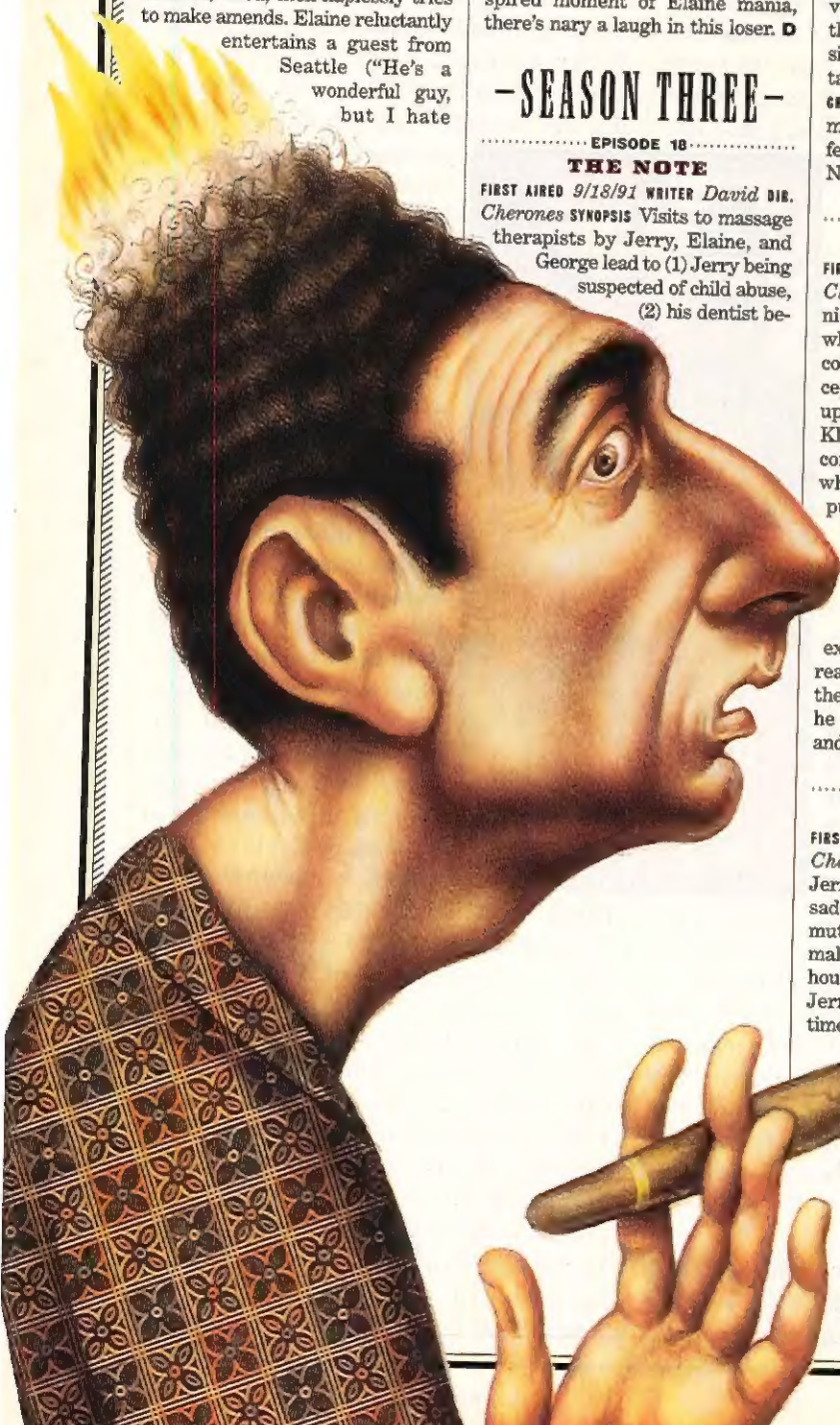
THE CAFE

FIRST AIRED 11/6/91 WRITER Tom Leopold DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Jerry decides to help struggling restaurateur Babu Bhatt drum up business. Elaine assists George in an IQ-test caper. INTRODUCES Brian George as the too-trusting (at first) Babu, who will receive more “help” from Jerry down the line. HISTORIC MOMENT Debut of the never-used bicycle, which hangs next to Jerry’s bathroom. CRITIQUE Great unsettling fun to watch Babu sour on self-satisfied Jerry (“You bad man, Jerry. You very, very bad man!”). One gripe: Kramer’s tiresome side plot—involving a lucky jacket he’s determined to keep from its rightful owner—begins here and drags on for weeks. B

EPISODE 25

THE TAPE

FIRST AIRED 11/13/91 WRITERS David/Bob Shaw/Don McEnery DIR. Steinberg SYNOPSIS While attending one of Jerry’s stand-up gigs, Elaine anonymously talks dirty into his tape recorder; after learning that it’s her, George (and eventually the others) see Ms. Benes in a whole new light. At the same time, George experiments with an exotic Chinese balding cure. INTRODUCES Ping Wu as delivery guy Ping, Elaine’s future nemesis. CRITIQUE Almost a tacit reminder to us—and a masterfully besotted George—that the usually sexless Elaine really isn’t just one of the boys. B-



EPISODE 26

THE NOSE JOB

FIRST Aired 11/20/91 **Writer** *Mehlman*
Dir. *Cherones* **Synopsis** A guilt-ridden George considers breaking up with Audrey (Susan Diol) because she has a big nose. Jerry deals with superficiality issues of his own in his fling with a bimbo "actress" (Tawny Kitaen). **Historic Moments** The Kitaen elevator encounter provides Jerry's best come-on: "You know, I'm the one responsible for those crop circles in England." We learn Kramer's mom is named Babs, and she's "a drunken stumblebum." **Critique** A wonderfully surreal set piece—in which Jerry's penis and brain battle for supremacy via a chess game—elevates this to just okay. **C**

EPISODE 27

THE STRANDED

FIRST Aired 11/27/91 **Writers** *David Seinfeld/Matt Goldman* **Dir.** *Cherones* **Synopsis** George drags Jerry and Elaine to a party in the suburbs (hosted by *The Commish's* Michael Chiklis), then leaves them hanging when a smitten coworker offers sex. **Historic Moment** Elaine's heated anti-fur rantings point out her character's scattershot sociopolitical consciousness, which seems to be more about getting in people's faces than explaining a heartfelt belief. **Critique** Perfectly captures the agony of attending a party where everyone is breathtakingly boring (Elaine's reply to one inane guest—"Maybe the dingo ate your baby"—is a nonsensical beaut). Too bad the entire half hour didn't gorge on that feast of comic possibilities, to the exclusion of the lesser George (shoplifting) and Chiklis (soliciting) subplots. **B-**

EPISODE 28

THE ALTERNATE SIDE

FIRST Aired 12/4/91 **Writers** *David/Bill Masters* **Dir.** *Cherones* **Synopsis** Jerry's car is stolen. George takes over for vacationing Sid (Jay Brooks), the car parker on Jerry's block, and wreaks havoc on traffic. Elaine's "vibrant" 66-year-old boyfriend Owen (Edward Penn) strokes out minutes before she can break up with him. Kramer gets one line in a Woody Allen movie ("These pretzels are making me thirsty"). **Critique** Jerry is uncharacteristically confrontational in this busy plot, with sidesplitting results. Note especially his wisecrass "reservation" wrangling at the car-rental counter. **B**

EPISODE 29

THE RED DOT

FIRST Aired 12/11/91 **Writer** *David* **Dir.** *Cherones* **Synopsis** Elaine's recovering alcoholic beau (David Naughton), a damaged cashmere sweater, a brief job at Pendant Publishing for George, and desktop sex with a

cleaning woman keep this holiday episode crackling. **Introduces** Richard Fancy as Mr. Lippman, Elaine's boss at Pendant (played by Harris Shore in episode 22). **Critique** Literally laugh-a-minute (right down to Kramer's ersatz Hennigans commercial). Also nicely illustrative of the lying, cheating, and backstabbing that are part and parcel of these friendships. **A-**

EPISODE 30

THE SUBWAY

FIRST Aired 1/8/92 **Writer** *Charles* **Dir.** *Cherones* **Synopsis** The first plot to proceed on four different tracks, literally, as Jerry (retrieving his recovered car), Elaine (on her way to a lesbian wedding), George (en route to a job interview), and Kramer (bound for driving-violations court) have disparate subway experiences. **Historic Moment** Jerry first refers to George as *Death of a Salesman's* Biff—"the biggest loser in the history of American literature." **Critique** Elaine's stalled-train freak-out is a lonely highlight. Lest anyone doubt this is an ensemble at work, witness the loss of comic sizzle when the foursome separate. **C+**

EPISODE 31

THE PEZ DISPENSER

FIRST Aired 1/15/92 **Writer** *David* **Dir.** *Cherones* **Synopsis** In order to obtain "hand" (as in the upper hand) in his relationship with a humorless concert pianist, George plans a "preemptive breakup." Jerry reluctantly participates in a friend's drug intervention. Kramer dreams up a cologne that smells like the beach. **Critique** Featuring three of the series' most resonant comic legacies—The Beach, "hand," and the almighty Pez—as well as one of its most infectiously silly scenes (Jerry's Pez tease at the recital and Elaine's resulting hysteria). A non-stop hoot. **A**

EPISODE 32

THE SUICIDE

FIRST Aired 1/29/92 **Writer** *Leopold* **Dir.** *Cherones* **Synopsis** Bizarrely, another episode guest-starring a product (Drake's Coffee Cake): Jerry's neighbor Martin (C.E. Grimes) attempts suicide, leaving him in a coma and opening the door for Jerry to date his exotic girlfriend, Gina (Gina Gallego). Butt-phobic Elaine offends a chain-smoking, pregnant psychic just as she is about to reveal George's destiny. **Introduces** Wayne Knight as misanthropic Kramer cohort Newman. We're never told the origin of Jerry and Newman's mutual hatred; Seinfeld sees it as simply a dramatic given (and draws a familiar parallel): "Superman had his Lex Luthor. He's mine." **Critique** For once, it's Jerry center stage, in his riotous rapport with Gina, his

KRAMER'S BIG IDEAS

ODDLY ENOUGH, THE LEAST GAINFULLY employed of the four friends is the one brimming with entrepreneurial brainstorm, some of which actually came to fruition—on the show, that is.



- A pizza place where you can make your own pie, to be owned and operated by Kramerica Industries (EPISODE 4)
- A roll-out tie dispenser (EPISODE 5)
- Lovels—a design concept that will transform Kramer's pad into a pillow-strown "ancient Egypt"; later used as a scene in the NBC pilot *Jerry* (EPISODE 7)
- The Beach, a cologne that smells like, well, you know; later co-opted by "the real" Calvin Klein as Ocean (EPISODES 31, 51)
- Faking a ski lodge in his apartment with ersatz wood wallpaper (EPISODE 58)



SUPPORT GROUP

MR. COSTANZA AND KRAMER
TEST THE BRO/MANSSIERRE

- A coffee-table book about coffee tables—with a built-in coaster on the cover (EPISODE 71)
- Dispensing with his fridge and eating only fresh food (EPISODE 88)
- A camaraderie-promoting wall of tenants' photos in the building lobby (EPISODE 97)
- The Bro—bras for chesty men (EPISODE 98)
- Turning his apartment into a Swedish spa via a hot tub (EPISODE 108)
- Da Vinci sleep—20 minutes every three hours, based on Leonardo's supposed patterns (EPISODE 121)
- PB&J's, a restaurant that serves only peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwiches (EPISODE 121)

- Wearing only hot-out-of-the-dryer, or pizza oven, clothes (EPISODE 123)
- A car equipped with a periscope for urban navigation (EPISODE 126)
- A mattress filled with sand—"like sleeping on a beach" (EPISODE 144)

seething rancor toward Newman, and his blithe lack of pity for Martin. **B**

EPISODE 33

THE FIX-UP

FIRST Aired 2/5/92 **Writers** *Pope/Charles* **Dir.** *Cherones* **Synopsis** Neurotic, bulimic Cynthia (*Friends'* Maggie Wheeler) tells Elaine she's looking to meet a guy who "has nothing. Somebody who just has to appreciate being with me because he's so desperate." Naturally, matchmakers Elaine and Jerry think of George, who promptly—and proudly—saddles Cynthia with a pregnancy scare ("My boys can swim!"). **Historic Moment** First mention of "the vault," the impenetrable mental chamber where secrets are kept. **Critique** A relentless, snarky banter-fest, aided and abetted by Wheeler, who could easily be a regular, she's such a great fit among these misfits. **A-**

EPISODE 34

THE BOYFRIEND

FIRST Aired 2/12/92 **Writers** *David/Larry Levin* **Dir.** *Cherones* **Synopsis** In the series' first hour-long edition, a chance locker-room meeting pulls Jerry into a friendship-cum-romance with New York Met Keith Hernandez (playing himself); when Elaine starts dating him, Jerry's not sure whom he's jealous of. Kramer and Newman have their own connection to the Game 6 legend—a fateful 1987 "assassination" incident outside Shea Stadium. Meanwhile, George "the chucker" is in full fraudulent swing as he tries to extend his unemployment benefits. **Introduces** Former Jerry neighbors and new parents Michael (here played by Stephen Prutting, later by Mark L. Taylor) and Carol (Lisa Mende), they of the "You gotta see the bay-bee" whine. **Historic Moment** First real "Hello, Newman." **Critique** A quintessential watercooler episode—parti-

cularly in its subversive, spot-on parody of Oliver Stone's *JFK*, replete with "gravelly road" and "magic loogie." Generally, hour-long episodes are sitcom killers, even for this show. Meet the exception. **A+**

EPISODE 35 THE LIMO

FIRST AIRED 2/26/92 WRITERS Charles/Marc Jaffe DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS An airport scam goes horribly wrong, as George (with Jerry) impersonates a Mr. O'Brien to appropriate his limo.

Turns out he's the leader of a neo-Nazi group, and the car is en route to a rally. CRITIQUE Despite an auspicious start, this was too much about something—and something unconvincingly preposterous at that. **B-**

EPISODE 36 THE GOOD SAMARITAN

FIRST AIRED 3/4/92 WRITER Mehlman DIR. Jason Alexander SYNOPSIS An outraged Jerry chases down a hit-and-run driver, only to end up dating her. George has an affair with a married woman. Kramer experiences seizures triggered by the voice of *Entertainment Tonight's* Mary Hart. (Don't we all?) CRITIQUE Lackluster doings all around. Now we know why Alexander never directed again. **C**

EPISODE 37 THE LETTER

FIRST AIRED 3/25/92 WRITER David DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Jerry dates

jealous, Neil Simon-plagiarizing painter Nina (Catherine Keener), whose father is an accountant for the Yankees; Elaine causes a brouhaha when she wears an Orioles cap in the owner's box. The art world gets a load of Kramer. HISTORIC MOMENTS We learn Kramer hopped a steamship to Sweden when he was 17 and Jerry wears button-fly jeans: "That's one place in my wardrobe I do not need sharp interlocking teeth. It's like a mink trap down there." CRITIQUE A boring girlfriend for Jerry—and four ho-hum subplots centering on her—make for tedium. **C-**

EPISODE 38 THE PARKING SPACE

FIRST AIRED 4/22/92 WRITERS David/Greg Daniels DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS A plan to get together at Jerry's to watch a prize fight is stymied when George and another presumptive guest, Mike (Lee Arenberg), wind up in a parking-space standoff in front of the building. HISTORIC MOMENT Highlights one of George's few bragging points: his prowess behind the wheel, specifically here as a primo parallel parker. CRITIQUE Another me-

diocre outing, winding up a comically challenged couple of weeks. This one sets up its scenario and just kinda lies there. **C**

EPISODE 39 THE KEYS

FIRST AIRED 5/6/92 WRITER Charles DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS By abusing his visitation rights, Kramer breaks the "covenant of the keys," forcing Jerry to demand his set back. Kramer takes this reprimand as a cue to pursue his destiny (an acting career) and embarks on a madcap cross-country trek that results in a guest spot on *Murphy Brown*. CRITIQUE At long last, the K-Man gets a close-up in this cliff-hanger of sorts, including an especially flavorful (and all too rare) tête-à-tête with George. **B+**

-SEASON FOUR-

EPISODE 40 THE TRIP, PART I

FIRST AIRED 8/12/92 WRITER Charles DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Jerry (with George in tow) heads for L.A. and a *Tonight Show* appearance. Kramer, still pursuing his Hollywood dream, ends up the prime suspect in a series of "smog stranglings." CRITIQUE Kramer's *Sunset Boulevard* moment with a has-been starlet, and know-it-all George's starstruck backstage assault on *Cheers* star George Wendt ("Have they thought about changing the setting? People do meet in places besides a bar"), are the bright spots in an underwhelming season opener. **B-**

EPISODE 41 THE TRIP, PART II

FIRST AIRED 8/19/92 WRITER Charles DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Jerry and George try to reach Kramer and clear his name after he's falsely arrested. CRITIQUE The duo are a scream as strangers in a strange land (L.A.). They also engage in a particularly riotous display of juvenility in the back of a police car (nice cameo by professional psycho Clint Howard, too). **B+**

EPISODE 42 THE PITCH/THE TICKET (ONE HOUR)

FIRST AIRED 9/16/92 WRITER David DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Jerry and George pitch their sitcom about "nothing" to NBC. Elaine embarks on a whirlwind tour of Europe with her >>



GEORGE ON GEORGE:

“I come from a long line of quitters. My father was a quitter. My grandfather was a quitter. I was raised to give up.”

ILLUSTRATION BY MARK ULRIKSEN

COUNTER CULTURE



TELEVISION'S LANDSCAPE is filled with actors whose careers got a boost from a bit part on *Seinfeld*, whether in blink-and-you'll-miss-'em appearances, like Kathy Kinney's and French Stewart's, or in more pivotal roles, like Lisa Edelstein's *Risotto Girl*. Here's a peek at some of the stars who have dropped in:

A. Jane Leeves,
Frasier
(Episode 48)

B. Jami Gertz,
ER (78)

C. Dan Cortese,
The Single Guy
(78)

D. Courteney Cox,
Friends (78)
E. French Stewart,
3rd Rock From the Sun (82)

F. Michelle Forbes,
Homicide: Life on the Street (84)

G. Vicki Lewis,
NewsRadio (91)

H. Kathy Griffin,
Suddenly Susan
(120)

I. Stephen Root,
NewsRadio (126)

J. Wendie Malick,
Just Shoot Me (97)

K. Jon Favreau,
Friends,
Swingers (80)

L. Teri Hatcher,
Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman (57)

M. Kathy Kinney,
The Drew Carey Show (60)

N. David James Elliott,
JAG (87)

O. Jeremy Piven,
Ellen (61)

P. Lisa Edelstein,
Relativity (62)

Q. Christa Miller,
The Drew Carey Show (65, 100)

R. Dedee Pfeiffer,
Cybill (82)

S. Armin Shimerman,
Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (116)

T. Brad Garrett,
Everybody Loves Raymond (124)

A. H. MILLER/ZUMA; B. JONATHAN ALGORN/ZUMA; C. LISA O'CONNOR/SHOOTING STAR; D. YONHAR KAHANA/SHOOTING STAR; E. S. P. Y. LISA ROSE/OLOE PHOTOS; F. O. BOB DAVIS/SHOOTING STAR; G. K. STEVE GRANITZ/RETNA; H. Q. M. PIZZOY BARRETT/OLOE PHOTOS; J. SUNNY KARL/SHOOTING STAR; K. BILL GUNDA/RETNA; L. GARY ROBERTS/RETNA; M. KERRY BRINDLEY/RETNA; N. PAMADUN/SHOOTING STAR; O. K. STEVE GRANITZ/RETNA; P. Q. M. PIZZOY BARRETT/OLOE PHOTOS; R. SUNNY KARL/SHOOTING STAR; S. BILL GUNDA/RETNA; T. GARY ROBERTS/RETNA

therapist, Dr. Reston, whose other patient, Crazy Joe Davola, is stalking Kramer and Jerry over a party-invitation slight. **INTRODUCES** Heidi Swedberg as NBC exec Susan Ross, George's future fiancée; Bob Balaban as NBC prez Russell Dalrymple; Stephen McHattie as creepy Reston; and Peter Crombie as Crazy Joe. **CRITIQUE** David and Seinfeld's roman à clef about their own NBC experience includes killer pitch scenes. Too bad they had to muck it up with Kramer and Newman's inane courtroom antics. **B-**

EPISODE 43 THE WALLET

FIRST Aired 9/23/92 WRITER David DIB. **Cherones SYNOPSIS** The defective watch Jerry tossed in the garbage in "The Pitch" (later retrieved, in one of those aptly improbable turns of fate, by Uncle Leo) is an issue when his parents wonder about their gift. Mr. Seinfeld's wallet is swiped at the doctor's. Elaine breaks up with her "Sven-jolly," Dr. Reston. **CRITIQUE** In a show magnifying neuroses to fever pitch, Jerry's respectful rapport with his exasperating family is the closest thing to normalcy Seinfeld offers. **B-**

JERRY ON NEWMAN:

“He's pure evil...a mystery wrapped in a Twinkie”

ILLUSTRATION BY MARK FREDRICKSON

EPISODE 44 THE WATCH

FIRST Aired 9/30/92 WRITER David DIB. **Cherones SYNOPSIS** George plays hardball with NBC and succeeds in dropping the price for his and Jerry's script. Elaine deals with Reston via Kramer, then gives her number to a smitten Crazy Joe. Jerry regrets asking out Naomi (Jessica Lundy), a restaurant hostess with a braying laugh ("Elmer Fudd sittin' on a juicer"). **CRITIQUE** None of the subplots really cohere, but worth it for George's hyperirritating visit with Dalrymple and Kramer's inept sparring with Reston. In fact, Richards scored his first Emmy win with this and "The Junior Mint." **B**

EPISODE 45 THE BUBBLE BOY

FIRST Aired 10/7/92 WRITERS David/Charles DIB. **Cherones SYNOPSIS** Susan invites George, Jerry, and Elaine up to her parents' cabin in "pie country." A Yoo-hoo salesman (Brian Doyle-Murray) guilt-trips Jerry into visiting his hermetically cocooned son on the way. When all is said and done, an enraged George has burst the bubble and a careless, stogie-puffing Kramer has burned down the cabin. **CRITIQUE** Not only do they use a sick kid as a comic device, they make him into an obnoxious creep; his life-threatening Trivial Pursuit game with George ("Moors!" "Moops!") is a dyspeptic gem. **A+**

EPISODE 46 THE CHEEVER LETTERS

FIRST Aired 10/28/92 WRITER David/Pope/Leopold DIB. **Cherones SYNOPSIS** George and Susan give her father

the bad news about the cabin—and spill the beans about a recovered box containing love letters from his secret paramour, author John Cheever. While bedding Elaine's secretary, Jerry offends her with off-the-wall pillow talk ("The panties your mother laid out for you?"). **INTRODUCES** Grace Zabriskie and Warren Frost as Susan Ross' blue-blood alcoholic mom and dour dad—*Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* on the Upper East Side. **CRITIQUE** Discomfiting as all get-out, this also includes an all-too-realistic depiction of writer procrastination as Jerry and George struggle to crank out the pilot. **A-**

EPISODE 47 THE OPERA

FIRST Aired 11/4/92 WRITER Charles DIB. **Cherones SYNOPSIS** Picking up where "The Watch" left off, Elaine dumps Crazy Joe when she discovers he's transformed his apartment into a demented shrine to her. The unmedicated nut then stalks her and Jerry at a performance of *I Pagliacci*. (Says Jerry: "I kind of like this opera crowd. I feel tough.") **CRITIQUE** Another gleefully sociopathic Davola appearance puts this one nicely over the top—just like a good opera. **B+**

EPISODE 48 THE VIRGIN

FIRST Aired 11/11/92 WRITERS Mehlman/Peter Farrelly/Bob Farrelly DIB. **Cherones SYNOPSIS** Jerry dates a closet-organizing virgin, Marla (*Frasier*'s Jane Leeves). Assuming a sitcom gig will make him more desirable, George looks for a way to dump Susan—and succeeds. Ping sues Elaine for a jaywalking mishap. **CRITIQUE** At least three terrific scenes—George and Jerry's "What's a girlfriend?" chat, Elaine's diaphragm remarks, and George getting henpecked by phone while Kramer plays *Jeopardy!*—make this Mehlman and Farrelly brothers (*Dumb and Dumber*) effort a hall of famer. **A**

EPISODE 49 THE CONTEST

FIRST Aired 11/18/92 WRITER David DIB. **Cherones SYNOPSIS** George's mother catches him, *you know*, with a copy of *Glamour* magazine, prompting a contest to see who can remain "master of their domain." **INTRODUCES** Estelle Harris as Estelle Costanza, explaining a whole lot about the mess that is her son. **CRITIQUE** Clearly on a roll, the show hit a new high with this masterful tribute to sublimation. Since no money changes hands between George and Jerry, we wondered who, in fact, won. Larry David claims, "We resolved it [in "The Puffy Shirt" (63)]," where George boasts about prevailing. Seinfeld, however, maintains that not only was it a tie, "it's still going on. Maybe in the last episode we'll have to talk about 'Well, do you give?'" **A+**





The Costanzas

EPISODE 50 THE AIRPORT

FIRST Aired 11/25/92 WRITER Charles Dier. **Cherones** SYNOPSIS Jerry and Elaine are separated on a packed flight to La Guardia airport: Jerry ends up in first class, next to model Tia Van Camp (Jennifer Campbell); Elaine gets stuck in coach. George and Kramer attempt to pick them up at the airport. Ha! **CRITIQUE** Elaine's acute distress—intercut with Jerry's wine-sipping, slipper-wearing, sundae-eating idyll—is a joy to behold. Who doesn't relate to this class struggle every time they board a plane? **A+**

EPISODE 51 THE PICK

FIRST Aired 12/16/92 WRITERS David/Marc Jaffe Dier. **Cherones** SYNOPSIS Nose picking and nipple baring are Jerry and Elaine's scarlet letters in an episode that also finds Kramer confronting designer Calvin Klein (Nicholas Hormann) over aromatic plagiarism and George getting Susan back—to his dismay. **CRITIQUE** Kramer as CK underwear model and George's Louis Pasteur digression are prime examples of Richards' and Alexander's comedic genius: zany physicality and desperate deception. But as with all of the best episodes, everyone rocks. One complaint: a woefully unexploited therapy visit for basket case George. **A**

THE PARENTS

ILLUSTRATION BY BARRY BLITT

EPISODE 52 THE MOVIE

FIRST Aired 1/6/93 WRITERS Steve Skrovan/Bill Masters/Jon Hayman Dier. **Cherones** SYNOPSIS Jerry, George, Elaine, and Kramer try to go to a movie together. **CRITIQUE** Yet another attempt to recapture the high anxiety of "Chinese Restaurant," but there's a fine line between transcendent and tiresome. Guess which side this one falls on? **D**

EPISODE 53 THE VISA

FIRST Aired 1/27/93 WRITER Mehlman Dier. **Cherones** SYNOPSIS When George's relationship with a lawyer—Cheryl "The Terminator" Fong (Maggie Han)—goes kablooey, so do Babu's chances for remaining in the U.S. and Elaine's opportunity to avoid a costly judgment from Ping. Kramer goes to baseball fantasy camp. **CRITIQUE** Nothing's funnier than Jerry trying not to be funny in this festival of ethnic ire—except, maybe, George fraudulently ingratiating himself with yet another woman. **A-**

EPISODE 54 THE SHOES

FIRST Aired 2/4/93 WRITERS David/Seinfeld Dier. **Cherones** SYNOPSIS When

George imperils the NBC pilot with an inappropriate stare, it's Elaine—and her cleavage—to the rescue. **HISTORIC MOMENTS** Jerry's Superman magnet joins his fridge—coincidentally, or not, this also marks the beginning of the show's residence in the top 10. **CRITIQUE** An off episode for Elaine, who gets stuck with a lame shoe subplot. Actually, this rare David/Seinfeld foul pretty much stinks for everyone. **D**

EPISODE 55 THE OUTING

FIRST Aired 2/11/93 WRITER Charles Dier. **Cherones** SYNOPSIS A joke perpetrated by Elaine leads a New York University student reporter (Paula Marshall) to assume that (single, thin, neat) Jerry and George are gay. Not that there's anything wrong with that. **HISTORIC MOMENT** We learn that George met Jerry at JFK High School, when George fell off a rope in gym class and landed on Jerry's head. **CRITIQUE** Except for another annoying jacket routine (this time Elaine refuses to take her parka off for no apparent reason), "Outing" strikes the perfect Seinfeldian balance: far-fetched and accessible. Then again, Jerry dating a college kid? Get out! **A-**

The Seinfelds

EPISODE 56 THE OLD MAN

FIRST Aired 2/18/93 WRITERS Charles/Bruce Kirschbaum Dier. **Cherones** SYNOPSIS Following Elaine's selfless example, Jerry and George sign with the Senior Citizens Volunteer Agency to fill the "deep yawning chasm" of their lives. Elaine's charge is a goiter-sporting former lover of Gandhi (voiced by Edie McClurg); George and Jerry end up with geriatric versions of each other (Robert Donley and Emmy-nominated Bill Erwin). **CRITIQUE** The perils of altruism yield big yuks once again—not to mention Jerry and George confronting the dual spectres of aging and (gasp!) maturity. **B+**

EPISODE 57 THE IMPLANT

FIRST Aired 2/25/93 WRITER Mehlman Dier. **Cherones** SYNOPSIS Much mammarian speculation surrounds Jerry's current object of desire, Sidra (Lois & Clark's Teri Hatcher). George tries to use a funeral to make headway with new girlfriend Betsy (Megan Mullally). Kramer insists he's seen Salman Rushdie at the gym. **CRITIQUE** Numerous guffaw-worthy scenes (George's mimed reaction to Betsy's emergency phone call and his "double dip" fracas being two), yet the whole falls just short of its parts. **B**

EPISODE 58 THE JUNIOR MINT

FIRST Aired 3/13/93 WRITER Andy Robin Dier. **Cherones** SYNOPSIS Jerry dates a woman (Susan Walters) whose name rhymes with a female body part—if only he knew which one. Elaine rekindles her affections for an ex, Roy/Triangle Boy (Sherman Howard), as he's about to undergo a splenectomy, which Jerry and Kramer get to observe. **HISTORIC MOMENT** Seinfeld has remarked that his ad-lib—"Let's go watch 'em slice this fat bastard up"—opened the door for

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all manner of verbal envelope pushing. **CRITIQUE** The combined snarkiness of two trademark motifs (the provocation—via the name guessing—of dirty thoughts; and George's hopes of profiting from death) adds up to a minor masterpiece. **B+**

EPISODE 59

THE SMELLY CAR

FIRST Aired 4/15/93 WRITERS David Mehlman DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Jerry wages an epic struggle against "The Beast," after a parking valet infests his car with otherworldly BO. George worries he's put Susan off men after seeing her holding hands with Mona (Viveka Davis), a golf instructor who, in turn, falls for Kramer. **CRITIQUE** George as despairing sexual leper ("Amazing. I drive them to lesbianism. [Kramer] brings 'em back!") is, of course, a treat. But Jerry's initially funny predicament runs out of gas, as it were. **B-**

EPISODE 60

THE HANDICAP SPOT

FIRST Aired 5/18/93 WRITER David DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS The ethically challenged meet the physically challenged as the foursome appropriate a handicap spot at a suburban mall en route to an engagement party for The Drake (Rick Overton). INTRODUCES John Randolph as Frank Costanza (his scenes were later reshot for syndication by his successor, Jerry Stiller—a television rarity). **CRITIQUE** While there are always moments of misanthropic self-centeredness, "Spot" is a veritable celebration of it—and good callous fun at that! **B**

EPISODE 61

THE PILOT (ONE HOUR)

FIRST Aired 5/20/93 WRITER David DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Revolving around the casting (most notably, Ellen's Jeremy Piven as "George"), taping, and airing of the NBC pilot are Darryl's obsession with an uninterested Elaine, Kramer's constipation, and George's cancer scare. **CRITIQUE** What a missed opportunity! The show-within-a-show goings-on offered all sorts of riotous, hour-filling possibilities. Instead, Kramer and Elaine are thrown subplot bones, making what should have been a watershed event feel padded and slack. **B-**

-SEASON FIVE-

EPISODE 62

THE MANGO

FIRST Aired 9/16/93 WRITERS Lawrence H. Levy/Buck Dancer DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS George gets "the tap" from his latest squeeze, Karen, a.k.a. Risotto Girl (*Relativity's* Lisa Edelstein), undermining his sexual confidence. Jerry learns that Elaine "faked 'em all" and begs for another shot. **HISTORIC MOMENT** Jerry and Elaine

in bed. **CRITIQUE** Much cloaked yet explicit sexual discussion (à la "The Contest"), as well as an extended food-as-sex metaphor; opens the fifth season with a bang. **A**

EPISODE 63

THE PUFFY SHIRT

FIRST Aired 9/23/93 WRITER David DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS George, reduced to living with his parents, embarks on a hand-modeling career. Kramer's barely audible designer girlfriend, Leslie, has Jerry unwittingly agree to wear a pirate shirt on the *Today* show. INTRODUCES Jerry Stiller as retired religious-icon importer Frank Costanza. **HISTORIC MOMENT** We learn that Estelle Costanza has never laughed. **CRITIQUE** A great first taste of the Costanzas' corrosive rapport. And it's always fun to see Jerry—usually above it all—as the mortified victim. **A-**

EPISODE 64

THE GLASSES

FIRST Aired 9/30/93 WRITERS Tom Gam-mill/Max Pross DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS The loss of George's glasses results in Elaine being bitten by a dog and Jerry believing his girlfriend Amy (Anna Gunn) is cheating on him. **CRITIQUE** Aside from Elaine's rabies hysteria, pretty standard fare. **B-**

EPISODE 65

THE SNIFFING ACCOUNTANT

FIRST Aired 10/7/93 WRITERS David/Seinfeld DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Jerry suspects his accountant, Barry Profit (John Kapelos), has a drug habit. Elaine breaks up with a writer over exclamation-point stinginess. George nails a bra-salesman job and immediately loses it after "feeling up" the boss (*Drew Carey's* Christa Miller). **HISTORIC MOMENT** A second Richards Emmy thanks to this and "The Opposite" (82). **CRITIQUE** The funniest thing here is the sight of Kramer smoking while drinking a beer. That's a problem. **C+**



MAN OVERBOARD

JERRY IN THE INFAMOUS PIRATE SHIRT

EPISODE 66

THE BRIS

FIRST Aired 10/14/93 WRITER Charles DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Jerry and Elaine are chosen as godparents and must participate at the bris. Kramer discovers a "pig man" at the hospital. A suicide jumper uses George's perfectly parked car as a landing pad. **CRITIQUE** An already lukewarm plot goes ice-cold (or, should we say, comes up short) with the appearance of a high-strung, scenery-chewing mohel (Charles Levin). **Feh. D-**

EPISODE 67

THE LIP READER

FIRST Aired 10/28/93 WRITER Carol Leifer DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Elaine pretends she's hard of hearing to avoid talking to an annoying limo driver (Christopher Darga). Meanwhile, Jerry falls for a truly deaf U.S. Open lineswoman (Marlee Matlin), whom George is soon "borrowing" to eavesdrop (lip-read) on an ex. **CRITIQUE** Not a laugh riot, for sure, but you gotta love a series that isn't afraid to exploit people's handicaps to serve its own comic purposes. **B-**

EPISODE 68

THE NON-FAT YOGURT

FIRST Aired 11/4/93 WRITER David DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS A New York mayoral race between David Dinkins and Rudy Giuliani (in a cameo) is swayed by Jerry's belief in a non-fat-yogurt conspiracy and Elaine's contention that New Yorkers should wear name tags. INTRODUCES Peter Keleghan as Lloyd Braun, a Dinkins aide, who will be played by Matt McCoy in episode 114. **HISTORIC MOMENT** The F- and the S-word are thrown around, albeit with bleeps, in what may be a TV first. **CRITIQUE** Obviously a winner with Gothamites, although we wonder how this nearly provincial scenario played outside NYC. **B+**

EPISODE 69

THE BARBER

FIRST Aired 11/11/93 WRITER Robin DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Jerry's attempt to change haircutters is portrayed as an adulterous betrayal. An ambiguous job interview leads George to assume a position he's totally unqualified for. **CRITIQUE** Intended as a mock opera (Jerry's barber crisis, at any rate), this one had us looking for the exits. **Oofah! D**

EPISODE 70

THE MASSEUSE

FIRST Aired 11/18/93 WRITER Mehlman DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Frustration for Jerry, because his masseuse girlfriend (Jennifer Coolidge) isn't giving him any (rubdowns, that is); for George, because the "massage teaser" can't stand him; and for Elaine, because her boyfriend Joel Rifkin (Anthony Cistaro) shares his name with a serial killer. **HISTORIC MOMENT** In considering a new name for Joel,



TOTAL RECALL

ONE OF THE BIG REASONS we buy into the eccentric and unpredictable world of *Seinfeld* is because it is so grounded in daily minutiae and recurring obsessions. You want nit-picking? Here's 148 episodes' worth of the most repeated events and references (you're welcome).

Kramer entrances	252
(BOTH FEET MUST BE OVER JERRY'S DOORSTEP)	
Meetings at Monk's Cafe	229
Opening of Jerry's fridge	103
Jerry on his phone	101
Rings of Jerry's buzzer	55
Jerry, Kramer, George, or Elaine watching the tube	40
Bowls of cereal eaten	13
Jerry, Kramer, or George driving a car	95
(IRONICALLY, THERE ARE ONLY EIGHT HIGHWAY RIDES AND ONE HORNE ON A BUN.)	
Scenes in a doctor's office/In a hospital	28
Scenes at an airport/in a plane	18
Cigars smoked by Kramer	19
Baseball references	48
Superhero references	32
(INCLUDING SUPERMAN, BATMAN, THE GREEN LANTERN, ELASTIC MAN, WONDER WOMAN, AQUAMAN, AND RUBBER MAN.)	
Chinese food references	26
Kennedy references	10
(INCLUDING JOHN F.'S JR. AND SR., ETHEL, AND JACKIE O.)	
Nazi/Hitler references	11
Art Vandalay references	5
Three Stooges references	4
"Get out!" shoves from Elaine	13
George has sex in an inappropriate place	4
Approximate amount of money lost by Jerry	\$34,275.50
(PLUS A TV, A STEREO RECEIVER, TWO CHARTER TICKETS TO PARIS, A BMW, AND TWO MEALS AT MENDY—ACTUAL VALUES UNKNOWN)	
*SCENES IN L.A. NOT INCLUDED.	



THE BIT PLAYERS

ILLUSTRATION BY DREW FRIEDMAN

Elaine suggests O.J. as a cool option. Who knew? **CRITIQUE** The Rifkin angle has not aged well. And where obsessive, irritable hankering has tickled us in the past, here it simply, uh, rubs us the wrong way. **B-**

EPISODE 71 THE CIGAR STORE INDIAN

FIRST Aired 12/9/93 WRITERS Gammill/Pross DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Jerry walks a politically incorrect minefield as he pursues Native American Winona (Kimberly Norris). Elaine is stalked by a geek (Sam Lloyd). George is grounded for having sex in his parents' bed. Kramer brainstorms a coffee-table book—about coffee tables. **HISTORIC MOMENT** We learn Frank Costanza has saved every *TV Guide* fall preview since “the beginning.” **CRITIQUE** A rich episode that gives each of the four a meaty plot while still finding room for Costanza yuks and tasty guest-star bits (including an Al Roker morsel). **A-**

EPISODE 72 THE CONVERSION

FIRST Aired 12/16/93 WRITER Kirschbaum DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS George converts to the Latvian Orthodox faith to keep Sasha (Jana Marie Hupp).

Kavorka-cursed Kramer becomes a Latvian novice nun's object of desire. Germ-phobic Jerry reconsiders a girlfriend with fungicide in her bathroom. **CRITIQUE** There's truly nothing sacred as George uses religion to realize his selfish goals and cheats on his conversion exam. **B+**

EPISODE 73 THE STALL

FIRST Aired 1/6/94 WRITER Charles DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Elaine gets into a restroom tiff with a toilet-paper hoarder, who turns out to be Jerry's girlfriend Jane (Jami Gertz)—and Kramer's phone-sex consort. George has a crush on Elaine's “mimbo” boyfriend Tony (Dan Cortese). **HISTORIC MOMENTS** Jerry actually using his computer. George rock climbing! **CRITIQUE** The usual circuitous shenanigans, minus a fresh spin, plus deadwood guest stars Gertz and Cortese. **C-**

EPISODE 74 THE DINNER PARTY

FIRST Aired 2/3/94 WRITER David DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS In a search for edible party favors, Jerry and Elaine get bogged down in a bakery, while George and Kramer are hung up at a liquor store. **HISTORIC MOMENT** Jerry throws up for the first time since

June 29, 1980. **CRITIQUE** As opposed to being pleasingly exasperating, this can't-get-there-from-here morass is overacted and wearying (even Elaine's and George's usually divine pique seems labored). It's as if the show were doing a jaundiced parody of its asocial self. **C**

EPISODE 75

THE MARINE BIOLOGIST

FIRST Aired 2/10/94 WRITERS Ron Hauge/Charlie Rubin DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Jerry's lying saddles George with another ersatz profession—marine biology—and inadvertently jeopardizes Elaine's professional relationship with testy Russian novelist Yuri Testikov (George Murdock). **CRITIQUE** While handicapped by the Sturm und Drang of Elaine's subplot (including a loopy Carol Kane cameo—is there any other kind?), George's fish story had us hooked, especially his recounting of a heroic seaside rescue: “The sea was angry that day, my friends. Like an old man trying to send back soup at a deli...” **B+**

EPISODE 76 THE PIE

FIRST Aired 2/17/94 WRITERS Gammill/Pross DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Jerry is plagued by issues of sharing (a girlfriend refuses a taste of pie) and hygiene (restaurant-chef Poppie doesn't wash his hands after a stall visit). Elaine is incensed by a look-alike store mannequin. **INTRODUCES**

Reni Santoni as Poppie, whose potty habits will continue to wreak havoc for Jerry. **CRITIQUE** Scattered chuckles, plus a funny reference to episode 71 as credits roll. Otherwise, much ado about, well, almost nothing. **C**

EPISODE 77

THE STAND-IN

FIRST Aired 2/24/94 WRITER David DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Jerry nearly exhausts his bag of shtick making hospitalized pal Fulton (Michael Rivkin) laugh. Kramer gets a job as an *All My Children* stand-in. Elaine is traumatized when a date “[takes] it out.” George persists in seeing a woman out of spite. **INTRODUCES** Danny Woodburn as Mickey, Kramer's “little” friend. **CRITIQUE** Stand-alone plots are a rarity, and all four here are strong. Kramer “at work” will turn out to be a can't-miss proposition; in this case he's abetted by an especially quirky milieu—the backstage politics of his lilliputian costars. **B+**

EPISODE 78 THE WIFE

FIRST Aired 3/17/94 WRITER Mehlman DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Jerry and new girlfriend Meryl (Courteney Cox) pretend to be married—for a dry-cleaning discount—and are soon bickering like an old couple. Elaine's “open lip” kiss from a male gym acquaintance leads to assumptions. George is caught “going” in the health club's shower. **CRITIQUE** Elaine's

hyper-neurotic scrutiny of "gym boy" and Jerry's kid-playing-a-grown-up routine put these two in unusually sharp focus. Kramer's interracial relationship, however, is head-scratchingly undeveloped. **B**

EPISODE 79
THE RAINCOATS
(ONE HOUR)

FIRST AIRED 4/23/94 WRITERS Gammill/Pross/David/Seinfeld DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Jerry's parents offend the Costanzas by blowing them off for dinner and take a shine to Elaine's "close-talking" beau, Aaron (Judge Reinhold). Kramer cooks up a big deal selling Morty Seinfeld's old Executive trench coats. George is guilt-tripped into Big Brotherhood. Jerry's *Schindler's List* make-out session with Rachel (Melanie Smith) puts him in the parental doghouse. CRITIQUE Despite an Emmy-nominated guest spot by Reinhold, "Raincoats" is all wet. This took four writers? **C-**

EPISODE 80
THE FIRE

FIRST AIRED 5/5/94 WRITER Charles DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Toby (Veanne Cox)—Kramer's manic coffee-table-book editor—costs Jerry a gig when her heckling is cited in an, uh, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY pan. George impresses single-mother girlfriend Robin (*Fridays*' Melanie Chartoff) with his cowardice at her son's birthday party (*Swingers*' Jon Favreau is Eric the clown). CRITIQUE George's predicament and the fate of Toby's toe strike us as strained. But Cox's cackling effusiveness is an abrasive treat. **C**

EPISODE 81
THE HAMPTONS

FIRST AIRED 5/12/94 WRITERS Mehlman/Leifer DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS The gang visits Carol and Michael's ("You gotta see the bay-bee")—and boy, is it ugly! beach house. In a roundelay of misplaced nudity, everyone except George sees his as-yet-unbedded date, Jane (Melora Walters), topless. He, meanwhile, gets caught with his pants down by Rachel (79) while sporting significant après-pool shrinkage. CRITIQUE The laughs in this episode are about as big as George after a nice cold swim. **C**

EPISODE 82
THE OPPOSITE

FIRST AIRED 5/19/94 WRITERS Andy Cowan/David/Seinfeld DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS George's epiphany—that his whole life is the opposite of what he'd intended—inspires him to act entirely against his instincts. The result: Victoria, a babelicious girlfriend (*Cybill*'s Dedee Pfeiffer), a front-office job for the Yankees, and an apartment. Meanwhile, Elaine loses everything—in effect becoming George. Kramer promotes his coffee-table book on *Regis & Kathie*

Lee. INTRODUCES George Steinbrenner, voiced by Larry David, and Marty Rackham as Jake Jarmel, the ailing boyfriend Elaine forsakes for Juju-fruits. HISTORIC MOMENT The end of Pendant Publishing. CRITIQUE In stark contrast to "The Pilot," this seamless, elegant season finale succeeds precisely because it doesn't try too hard. Plus: We love the rare sight of George funny as hell—and happy! **A**

-SEASON SIX-

EPISODE 83
THE CHAPERONE

FIRST AIRED 9/22/94 WRITERS David/Bill Masters/Bob Shaw DIR. Andy Ackerman SYNOPSIS Kramer Svengalies Miss Rhode Island (Marguerite MacIntyre) for the Miss America Pageant. Elaine gets a job as assis-



COFFEE-TABLE TALK

KRAMER APPEARS ON REGIS & KATHIE LEE

tant to Justin Pitt, a personal friend of Jackie Onassis. George persuades the Yankees to switch to cotton uniforms. INTRODUCES Ian Abercrombie as the lordly Pitt, and Andy Ackerman as the show's new signature director. CRITIQUE Kramer-as-flaky-savant is the first show-stealing turn in what will be Richards' strongest season so far. And we like Elaine's strangely affectionate subservience to Pitt, a step up from her chemistry-free rapport with Pendant's Lippman. **B**

EPISODE 84
THE BIG SALAD

FIRST AIRED 9/29/94 WRITER David DIR. Ackerman SYNOPSIS George's pettiness reaches new heights when girlfriend Julie (Michelle Forbes) takes credit for buying Elaine's salad. Jerry becomes unhinged after learning that current flame Margaret (Marita Geraghty) was once dumped by Newman. Kramer fears he may have incited a former baseball player to murder. CRITIQUE Arguably Newman's best episode, and cheekily clever for its White Bronco spoof. **B+**

EPISODE 85
THE PLEDGE DRIVE

FIRST AIRED 10/6/94 WRITERS Gammill/Pross DIR. Ackerman SYNOPSIS Mr. Pitt's eating Snickers with a knife and fork sparks a craze. George thinks everyone's giving him the finger. Jerry's suggestion that Elaine's friend Noreen (Kelly Coffield) is hit-

ting on him gets Noreen's "high-talking" boyfriend Dan (Brian Reddy) all worked up. INTRODUCES Tom Wright as Yankee exec Morgan, and Billye Ree Wallace as Jerry's nana. CRITIQUE Seinfeld's savvy exploiting of idiosyncrasies (Mr. Pitt's candy bar quirk) is crucial to the show's irresistibility. Noreen, however, goes nowhere (and yet turns up again). **B-**

EPISODE 86
THE CHINESE WOMAN

FIRST AIRED 10/13/94 WRITER Mehlman DIR. Ackerman SYNOPSIS Intrigued by a phone conversation with Donna Chang (Angela Dohrmann), Jerry asks her out thinking she's Chinese. Elaine convinces Noreen to dump the high-talker, only to see her take up with a "long talker." George laments his parents' breakup. Kramer's sperm test reveals he's low. CRITIQUE Donna's (real name Changstein) unconscious Chinese affectation offers a delicious array of character tics. And who can resist Kramer's concern over "his boys"? **B**

EPISODE 87
THE COUCH

FIRST AIRED 10/27/94 WRITER David DIR. Ackerman SYNOPSIS Bibliophobe George goes to extremes to avoid reading *Breakfast at Tiffany's* for his book club. Elaine's hardline pro-choice stance hospitalizes Poppie and clashes with that of Carl (*JAG*'s David James Elliott), her otherwise-perfect moving-man beau. ("The best part is, he doesn't play games," says Elaine. "No games?" asks Jerry. "What is the point of dating without games? How do you know if you're winning...?") CRITIQUE A rare foray into hot-button politics proves more novelty than amusement. **B-**

EPISODE 88
THE GYMNAST

FIRST AIRED 11/3/94 WRITERS Alec Berg/Jeff Schaffer DIR. Ackerman SYNOPSIS George's girlfriend's mother (Lois Nettleton) suspects him of being a panhandling bum. Jerry dates Katya (Elina Lowensohn), a Romanian gymnast, expecting, well, gymnastics in bed. Elaine nearly blows Mr. Pitt's Moland Springs merger. CRITIQUE Watching George haplessly digging a hole for himself with Mrs. Enright is the high point in a pretty rote episode. Note, however, the far-flung wrap-up, with one of the show's blunter Hitler references. **C+**

EPISODE 89
THE SOUP

FIRST AIRED 11/10/94 WRITER Fred Stoller DIR. Ackerman SYNOPSIS Oppressive comic Kenny Bania gives Jerry a brand new Armani suit in exchange for a free meal. George is blown off mid-date by a Monk's waitress (Tracy Kolis) and is determined to find out if she really *does* have a boyfriend. Elaine dates a penniless



DUMPING GROUNDS

ALTHOUGH ELAINE and George have capriciously dumped suitors (the latter, once, because of a girlfriend's fondness for the phrase "Happy, Pappy?"), Jerry is the King of the Idiosyncratic Heave-Ho—or at least the Passive-Aggressive Recoil. Here-with, the list so far; keep your eyes peeled for updates:

- ☒ For not laughing at all
- ☒ For laughing too strangely
- ☒ For having bad taste in commercials
- ☒ For having man hands
- ☒ For appearing to own only one dress
- ☒ For being too altruistic
- ☒ For not kissing on the third date
- ☒ For possibly having fake breasts
- ☒ For not giving him a massage
- ☒ For not tasting his pie
- ☒ For shushing him in front of the TV
- ☒ For suggesting he share her toothbrush
- ☒ For having been with (and getting dumped by!) Newman
- ☒ For being his soul mate
- ☒ For being liked by his parents
- ☒ For eating peas one at a time



DRESSED FOR DISTRESS

CHRISTIE'S EVERYDAY FROCK HAS JERRY COMING APART AT THE SEAMS

British bounder (Daniel Gerroll), **INTRODUCES** Stephen Hytner as Mendys devotee Kenny Bania, one of the series' casting triumphs. **CRITIQUE** The squabbling over what exactly constitutes a meal—between Jerry, Bania, and Elaine—is the show at its nit-picky best. A finely tuned script that wisely modulates the eccentricity. **B+**

EPISODE 90 THE MOM & POP STORE

FIRST AIRED 11/17/94 WRITERS Gammill/Pross DIR. Ackerman SYNOPSIS George buys a used Chrysler LeBaron convertible because he believes it belonged to Jon Voight (in a cameo). Kramer tries to help a local shoe-repair shop—and proceeds to put it out of business. **INTRODUCES** Bryan Cranston as dentist-to-the-gang Tim Whatley. **CRITIQUE** Woody Woodpecker, the Thanksgiving Day Parade, and a *Midnight Cowboy* send-up propel an improbably intricate plot that is, nevertheless, cleverly out there. **B+**

EPISODE 91 THE SECRETARY

FIRST AIRED 12/8/94 WRITERS Leifer/Margorie Gross DIR. David Owen Trainor SYNOPSIS George purposely hires a prim, unassuming secretary—Ada (Vicki Lewis)—and finds himself unraveled and undermined. Jerry discovers that Willie the dry cleaner and his wife are wearing their customers' clothes. Elaine blames Barney's skinny mirrors for dress misrepresentation. A triple-action-moisturizer mishap blows Kramer's chances with Uma Thurman. **CRITIQUE** All that, plus a second meal-mooching deal with Bania propel another improbably intricate plot that is not so cleverly out there. **B-**

EPISODE 92 THE RACE

FIRST AIRED 12/15/94 WRITERS Gammill/Pross/David/Sam Kass DIR. Ackerman SYNOPSIS In dating Lois (Renee Props), Jerry is reunited with Duncan (Don R. McManus), a former classmate whom he fraudulently beat in a high school race, and who is demanding a rematch. Thanks to Elaine's communist beau (Todd Kimsey), George answers a personal ad in *The Daily Worker*, and a department-store-Santa Kramer spouts propaganda to tykes. **CRITIQUE** A wacky juxtaposition (all-American Superman and the Red Menace) sets the stage for two sterling moments: George and Jerry's frank phoniness at the diner, and George's visit with an eerily Steinbrenneresque Fidel Castro. **B+**

EPISODE 93 THE SWITCH

FIRST AIRED 1/5/95 WRITERS Kirschbaum/Kass DIR. Ackerman SYNOPSIS George suspects his model girlfriend Nina (Charlotte Lewis) is bulimic.

Jerry schemes to get dumped by his non-laughing girlfriend Sandi (Jann Karam) so as to move in on her giddy roommate, Laura (Heather Medway). Kramer reunites with estranged mom, Babs (Sheree North). **CRITIQUE** The laughs attending the unveiling of Kramer's first name (Cosmo)—and Newman's Babs connection—are topped only by J's and G's devious, *Dragnet*-like brainstorming of the roommate switch. **A-**

EPISODE 94 THE LABEL MAKER

FIRST AIRED 1/19/95 WRITERS Berg/Schaffer DIR. Ackerman SYNOPSIS Re-gifting, de-gifting, connections, and disconnections abound as Jerry haggles over the fate of a pair of Super Bowl tix with Tim the dentist, and George tries to worm his way into his girlfriend Bonnie's (Jessica Tuck) life—well, her velvet-draped pad anyway—while ridding it of her male roomie. **CRITIQUE** Kramer and Newman's inane Risk subplot mars an otherwise fine effort. **B-**

EPISODE 95 THE SCOFFLAW

FIRST AIRED 1/26/95 WRITER Mehlman DIR. Ackerman SYNOPSIS Champion prevaricator George meets his match in "cancer victim" Gary (Jon Lovitz). Kramer ruins Elaine's post-breakup "hand" with Juicyfruits casualty Jake Jarmel (82), and discovers that Newman and his car are a local cop's Moby-Dick. **HISTORIC MOMENT** George gets a toupee. **CRITIQUE** Lovitz's Gary is a smarmy high, but the whole Melville angle (Kramer's eye patch, Newman as great white metaphor) sinks like a stone. And the Kramer-Elaine-Jarmel optical brouhaha—what was that? **B-**

EPISODE 96 THE BEARD

FIRST AIRED 2/9/95 WRITER Leifer DIR. Ackerman SYNOPSIS Elaine tries to convert a gay man. Emboldened by his toupee, George goes out on the prowl, only to fall for a bald woman. Jerry's hopes for dating a police officer are dashed after he fails a *Melrose Place* lie detector test. **CRITIQUE** How smart of them to reference the other hot show of '95. Also notable: Jerry's riff on why you can't convert gay men, the latest in a long line of sex-as-sports analogies. ("You



THAT'S RIGHT, JACK!

A TOUPEED JON LOVITZ SCAMS JERRY



ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE

IN A DELIGHTFUL CAM-ER TO EPISODE 99, MEL TORME SERENADES KRAMER WITH "WHEN YOU'RE SMILING" AT THE AMCA (ABLY MENTALLY CHALLENGED ADULTS) BENEFIT

think you can get him to just change teams?...When you join that team, it's not a whim. He likes his team.... They're only comfortable with their equipment.") **B+**

EPISODE 97 THE KISS HELLO

FIRST AIRED 2/16/95 WRITERS David/Seinfeld DIR. Ackerman SYNOPSIS Kramer's camaraderie-stimulating wall of tenant photos makes standoffish Jerry a building outcast. The gang finds its self-centered equal in Elaine's physical therapist friend Wendy (*Just Shoot Me*'s Wendie Malick), she of the "high school yearbook" hair (coproducer Carol Leifer plays her receptionist). **CRITIQUE** The Uncle Leo/Nana racetrack angle seems like filler in an otherwise top-notch episode. As always, sitcom staple Malick spices things up. **B+**

EPISODE 98 THE DOORMAN

FIRST AIRED 2/23/95 WRITERS Gammill/Pross DIR. Ackerman SYNOPSIS Jerry, thinking he's appeasing Mr. Pitt's abrasive doorman (Larry Miller) by covering for him, instead falls prey to his "sting." Kramer designs the Bro (a.k.a. the Manssiere) for the bosomy Mr. Costanza. **CRITIQUE** Miller's sinister turn, Estelle Costanza discovering a bra-clad Frank and Kramer cha-cha-ing, and an ingenious *Marathon Man* homage—all that, and Poppie, too! **A-**

EPISODE 99 THE JIMMY

FIRST AIRED 3/16/95 WRITERS Gregg Kavet/Andy Robin DIR. Ackerman SYNOPSIS Visits to Tim the dentist leave Jerry believing the doc's a pervert and strangers believing an over-anesthetized Kramer is mentally challenged. George's excessive sweating implicates him in Yankees pilfering. Gym habitué and third-person-speakin' Jimmy (Anthony Starke) hits on an unsuspecting Elaine. **INTRODUCES** Richard Herd as the Yankees' absent-minded travel-

ing secretary Wilhelm. **HISTORIC MOMENT** We learn that Kramer thinks George Will is attractive—although not all that bright. **CRITIQUE** A brilliant device for Kramer (yielding the best depiction of the fine man/child line he walks) makes this a highlight. **A**

EPISODE 100 THE DOODLE

FIRST AIRED 4/6/95 WRITERS Berg/Schaffer DIR. Ackerman SYNOPSIS A Newman-instigated flea infestation in apartment 5A leads to Elaine losing a plum Viking Press gig, Kramer losing his sense of taste, and Jerry losing a girlfriend (Dana Wheeler-Nicholson) after he refuses to share her toothbrush. George dates a woman (Christa Miller again) who doesn't care what he looks like. **CRITIQUE** The Seinfeld elders' trashing of a Plaza suite is just one of the absurd bits we aren't buyin'. **C+**

EPISODE 101 THE FUSILLI JERRY

FIRST AIRED 4/27/95 WRITERS Gross/Jonathan Gross/Ron Haugie/Charlie Rubin DIR. Ackerman SYNOPSIS Elaine dates Jerry's grease-monkey pal David Puddy and discovers that he's stolen Jerry's "move" (it requires a headboard). Kramer tries to live up to his "Assman" vanity plates. **INTRODUCES** Patrick Warburton (*Dave's World*) as Puddy, "the only honest mechanic in New York." **HISTORIC MOMENT** Establishes the K-Man's hobby of sculpting with pasta. **CRITIQUE** The triumph here is in taking two wildly divergent comic tacks (butt-joke juvenility and the comparatively sophisticated sex-as-stand-up-routine metaphor) and making them equally winning. **A**

EPISODE 102 THE DIPLOMAT

FIRST AIRED 5/4/95 WRITERS Gammill/Pross DIR. Ackerman SYNOPSIS George desperately seeks African-American friends after Morgan implies he's a racist. Pitt suspects that after adding Elaine to his will, she is trying >>

JERRY RIGGERS

LIKE THEIR BELOVED YANKEES, THE *SEINFELD* CREW is very much a team—a big one, too. There's not enough room to tip our hats to each and every behind-the-scenes player, but here (and on the next few pages) is a peek at a handful of MVPs. —A.J. Jacobs

LARRY DAVID

COCREATOR, FORMER EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
AGE: 49 CREDITS: *Fridays*, *Saturday Night Live*

JOB DESCRIPTION: Until quitting last year, David was *Seinfeld*'s version of the Soup Nazi, only nicer: He was the committed perfectionist who oversaw the sitcom's every detail. "The whole show was filtered through his sensibility," says current coexec producer Peter Mehlman. A former New York stand-up, David conceived the show with Jerry while at a grocery store riffing on products. He wrote roughly 60 episodes and rewrote too many to count, but found the whole process as painful as natural childbirth. "I set the bar very high for myself," says David. "I couldn't live with bad shows." David—who says it was "weird" not working on the '96-'97 season—is currently shooting *Sour Grapes*, a black comedy (surprise!) starring *Wings*' Steven Weber. **RE-LATES TO:** George. "He was a vehicle to act out my baser, sicker thoughts. And there are a lot of those." **FAVORITE EPISODES:** Among others, "The Contest," "The Rye," and "The Boyfriend"—"because I loved having lunch with Keith Hernandez." **CENSORED:** David insists NBC never nixed any language. "Sometimes we'd say 'penis' seven times in an episode. They'd say, 'Make it four.'" **STOLEN FROM LIFE:** "Every single show there was something." For starters, David was once master of his domain. And the pitch meeting in "The Pilot" mirrored his and Jerry's. "I remember one Castle Rock exec looked quite appalled." And, of course, the inspiration for Kramer—Kenny Kramer, 53—a former neighbor, now running for mayor of New York. "I'd vote for him," says David, "because he's incorporated the name tag issue into his platform" (see episode 68). Though Richards' character is zanier, both Kramers "did well with women. I was quite in awe of his prowess."



ANDY ACKERMAN

DIRECTOR
AGE: 40 CREDITS: *Wings*, *Cheers*, *Frasier*

JOB DESCRIPTION: Taking over in the sixth season (former director Tom Cherones went on to direct *Ellen* and *NewsRadio*, among other shows), Ackerman found *Seinfeld* was "unlike any other show. It's like doing a little movie every week." In other words, more scenes, plenty of location shoots, and fewer boring close-ups. "Andy is definitely visually ambitious," says Seinfeld. "He likes to spend the extra four hours to mount a camera inside a toilet bowl." After wrapping the last episode of this season, Ackerman moonlighted as director of NBC's upcoming *Jenny*, which he promises is free of fart and vomit jokes. "It felt like it was the maturing of Jenny McCarthy."

SECRETS: By now, the Big Four rarely need acting tips. Richards, however, likes to rehearse more than the others ("He's got all the physical stuff [to work out], and he admits he has trouble learning his lines compared to the other three"). And when he arrived, Ackerman urged Jerry to take his role more seriously. "I told him it's kind of endearing when the audience sees you crack up, but at the same time it's sort of distracting." Now, he says, "Jerry's really getting good." **BIGGEST CHALLENGE:** Thank God for pillows and kitchen counters, two ways Ackerman found to disguise Louis-Dreyfus' pregnancy this spring. **FAVORITE EPISODE:** Ackerman says "The Rye" was a particularly fun shoot—the cast took advantage of the winterized set and started an off-camera snowball fight.



BEHIND
THE
SCENES

COMPOSITE PHOTO: TOMMY BRIDGES/CONTRAST; LOUIZ DREYFUS: JEFFREY MONTAGNE/ABC; GREG KAY: LORI VAUGHAN/ABC; DUTCH

to kill him. Jerry freaks out during a frustrating trip home from a gig. **INTRODUCES** Debra Jo Rupp as Jerry's pesky, micromanaging agent, Katie. **HISTORIC MOMENTS** We learn of Kramer's gambling problem, and that Newman inherited Son of Sam's mail route—and once double-dated with him! **CRITIQUE** Laughs from unlikely sources: a convincingly angry Jerry and a wistfully nostalgic Elaine (in her *The Way We Were* Pitt reverie, after he fires her). George, on the other hand, is reliably ridiculous. **B**

EPISODE 103

THE FACE PAINTER

FIRST AIRED 5/11/95 **WRITERS** David Stoller **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** George finally speaks the L-word, only to fear that the object of his desire—fellow toilet-paper enthusiast Siena (Drew Carey's Katy Selverstone)—didn't hear him. **DAVID PUDDY'S** (101) hockey-game face-painting has Elaine reconsidering their relationship. Kramer must apologize to a chimpanzee (Barry). **HISTORIC MOMENT** We learn that George has never said I love you, except to a dog. **CRITIQUE** We love Puddy's outer-borough dolt. But again with a hearing-impaired girlfriend (57 and 67)? **B**

EPISODE 104

THE UNDERSTUDY

FIRST AIRED 5/18/95 **WRITERS** Gross/Leifer **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** When

George injures Bette Midler during a celebrity softball game, Kramer gets a shot at nursing his idol and Jerry's girlfriend Gennice gets a shot at the lead in *Rochelle, Rochelle: The Musical*. Mr. Costanza aids Elaine in a nail-salon caper, and rediscovers his lost Korean love. **INTRODUCES** John O'Hurley as pretentious and long-winded catalog magnate J. Peterman. **CRITIQUE** A particularly one-note Jerry relationship, but also a priceless example of the show's unerring ability to tap into common insecurities (the manicurists), and typically judicious celeb casting. **B+**

-SEASON SEVEN-

EPISODE 105

THE ENGAGEMENT

FIRST AIRED 9/21/95 **WRITER** David **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** The end of two painfully superficial Jerry and George relationships prompts the friends to strike a pact and "become men." George assumes this means marriage and proposes to Susan; Jerry quickly comes to his senses. Elaine hires Kramer and Newman to kidnap a noisy dog. **HISTORIC MOMENT** Oddly, given the show's signature brazenness, Seinfeld says the dog-napping incident generated the most flak from viewers. **CRITIQUE** A killer first 10 minutes, in which Jerry and George's wheel-spinning immaturity

is totally nailed. It also leads off a season that will see *Seinfeld's* already Rube Goldbergian plots get even denser and more complex. **A-**

EPISODE 106

THE POSTPONEMENT

FIRST AIRED 9/28/95 **WRITER** David **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Elaine—overcome with feelings of bitterness over "loser" George's engagement—confides her jealousy in a blabbermouth rabbi (Bruce Mahler). George, panicked and resentful over his hasty betrothal, attempts to delay the wedding. Kramer's café latte jones (he's been sucking 'em down since fifth grade) creates a litigious situation. **HISTORIC MOMENT** Jerry finally sees *Plan 9 From Outer Space*. **CRITIQUE** George's premarital squirming is, of course, a pleasure. But like the motel of episode 66, the rebbe is a preposterous, off-putting caricature. **C+**

EPISODE 107

THE MAESTRO

FIRST AIRED 10/5/95 **WRITER** David **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** George's compassion for a clothing-store security guard turns into a disastrous crusade. The settlement of Kramer's lawsuit with Java World leaves him all hopped-up. Elaine dates the Maestro, a pretentious conductor Jerry suspects of lying about Tuscan rentals. **INTRODUCES** Phil Morris as Johnnie Cochran-style lawyer Jackie

Chiles, who'll represent Kramer in future mishaps; and Mark Metcalf as the Maestro. **HISTORIC MOMENT** Jerry and Kramer in Europe. **CRITIQUE** Cheeky references galore (a high-profile McDonald's lawsuit, *A Room With a View*, the O.J. trial) pepper this otherwise hollow mélange. **C+**

EPISODE 108

THE WINK

FIRST AIRED 10/12/95 **WRITERS** Gammill/Pross **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Opposites attract, then combust; Dog-hating Elaine dates multiple-dog owner and wake-up caller James (Brian McNamara); newly vegetarian Jerry takes up with Elaine's mutton-lovin' cousin, Holly (Stacey Travis). Somehow, grapefruit pulp in George's eye leads to Morgan's dismissal and George's promotion. **HISTORIC MOMENT** Jerry calls Kramer "Jughead," prompting Kramer to dub Jerry "Archie," Elaine "Veronica," and George "Mr. Weatherbee." **CRITIQUE** For a plot so steeped in foodstuffs, there's curiously little to chew on. **C+**

EPISODE 109

THE HOT TUB

FIRST AIRED 10/19/95 **WRITERS** Kavet/Robin **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** George's theory—that when you look annoyed all the time, people think you're busy—backfires. Elaine's inability to set an alarm clock, Kramer's faulty hot tub, and Jerry's



LARRY CHARLES

FORMER WRITER/PRODUCER

AGE: 40 CREDITS: *The Arsenio Hall Show*, *Fridays*

JOB DESCRIPTION: Call him *Seinfeld's* Prince of Darkness. As a staffer for the first four seasons, Charles wrote some of the blackest episodes of the notoriously hug-free series, wringing humor from neo-Nazis ("The Limo"), serial killers ("The Trip"), and the homeless ("The Library"). He even got to kill Jerry in a bullet-riddled fantasy sequence ("The Baby Shower"). "So many places they ask you to shave the edge off," he says. "At *Seinfeld* they asked you to sharpen it." Ironically, Charles has moved on to exec produce that sentiment-fest *Mad About You*. **RELATES TO:** Kramer. They're both "into conspiracy theories, strange psychic connections, and cosmic thinking." **FAVORITE EPISODES:** The entire Emmy-winning fourth season. "That was our *Sgt. Pepper* year," says

Charles, who praises the intricate plot connections. "The show went from *I Love Lucy* to Thomas Pynchon, from Al Hirt to John Coltrane." **CENSORED:** Two of Charles' scripts were spiked for being too darn twisted: In one, Elaine bought a gun; in another, George made an inadvertent racist remark ("I've never seen a black person order a salad.") **BIGGEST CHALLENGE:** Writing for Elaine. That is, until "we stopped trying to treat her like a woman and said, 'She can be just as neurotic and troubled as the rest.'" (The change occurred with

Elaine's clingy boyfriend in "The Busby.") **STOLEN FROM LIFE:** In an L.A. bookstore, Charles once cornered Richard Dreyfuss and pitched a movie. ("I was so excited I started to hyperventilate," remembers Charles.) That spawned Kramer's similar assault on Fred Savage in "The Trip," the fourth-season opener.



BEHIND
THE
SCENES



Fred and Fran are so happy.

They are having a

BBQ.

Fred **lights** the fire! Fran **claps** her hands!

Fred asks Fran to please explain what the
strange new thing is on the grill!?

Fran tells Fred it's a burger with no meat.

"No meat??" Fred is confused.

Fran tells him to shut up and eat it already.

Fred always listens to Fran.

He eats & eats & eats.

Fred and Fran are **SO** happy.

*Discover the combination of fresh mushrooms, brown rice,
onions, cheese and spices that has over 200 million people
licking their chops in restaurants everywhere. They're
100% natural with only three grams of fat and 130 calories.
Look for Gardenburger® now wherever frozen foods are sold.*

Gardenburger. Eating good just got great.™



www.gardenburger.com

good intentions are a losing strategy for New York Marathon runner Jean-Paul Jean-Paul (Jeremiah Birkett). **CRITIQUE** Effective if predictable doings; you can see Jean-Paul's downfall coming from 26 miles away. And this is the third subplot hinging on Elaine's inability to wake up promptly (one of them just last week). What gives? **B-**

EPISODE 110

THE SOUP NAZI

FIRST AIRED 11/2/95 **WRITER** Spike Feresten **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** The excellence of a local soup merchant's (Larry Thomas) product is exceeded only by his rigid guidelines for customer behavior. Jerry's incessant baby talk with a new chick drives a wedge between him and George. Antique-collecting thugs (John Paragon and Yul Vazquez) terrorize Kramer. **CRITIQUE** You know, despite all the attention this Emmy-nominated episode got (partly because it's based on a real NYC vendor), the idea is funnier than the execution. **B**

EPISODE 111

THE SECRET CODE

FIRST AIRED 11/9/95 **WRITERS** Berg/Schaffer **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** George's ATM code instigates the passing of J. Peterman's mother. Jerry's chronic foot-sleeping offends limpin' electronics-discount king Leapin' Larry (Lewis Arquette). Elaine goes for

hapless Fred (Fred Stoller) simply because he can't remember her. **CRITIQUE** A disjointed effort, clumsily balanced on the head of a PIN. **C+**

EPISODE 112

THE POOL GUY

FIRST AIRED 11/16/95 **WRITER** David Mandel **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** George loses it when Elaine—upon realizing she has no gal pals—befriends Susan. Jerry gets an unwanted buddy in the form of Ramon (Carlos Jacott), the pool guy at his club. Kramer's new phone number—one digit off from Movie Phone—provides him with a new (pre)occupation. **CRITIQUE** Forget the Ramon bit, it's Kramer-as-phone-recording and George's panic at watching his worlds colliding ("relationship George" with "independent George") that drive this doozy. **A-**

EPISODE 113

THE SPONGE

FIRST AIRED 12/7/95 **WRITER** Mehlman **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** After getting a woman's number off an AIDS Walk list, Jerry fears she's too good ("You can't have sex with someone you admire!"). Elaine's loyalty to her discontinued birth control method (the Today Sponge) prompts hoarding and a new boyfriend-screening process. **HISTORIC MOMENT** We learn that Jerry relabels his jeans (from a 32" to 31"

waist). **CRITIQUE** Eminently sponge-worthy. **A-**

EPISODE 114

THE GUM

FIRST AIRED 12/14/95 **WRITERS** Gammill/Pross **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Kramer takes both a rehabilitated movie theater and post-nervous breakdown Lloyd Braun (68) under his wing. George meets Deena, a high school chum who's convinced he's having a breakdown. **HISTORIC MOMENT** That's cocreator Larry David refusing to change George's \$20 bill. **INTRODUCES** Mary Jo Keenan as Deena, who will make two more cameos, always catching George at his most unhinged; and Ruth Cohen as Monk's cashier Ruthie Cohen. **CRITIQUE** See it for a thickly bespectacled Jerry doing rare—and rewarding—physical sthick. **B+**

EPISODE 115

THE RYE

FIRST AIRED 1/4/96 **WRITER** Leifer **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Elaine's desire to do "everything" proves disastrous for sponge-worthy sax player John (Jeff Yagher). The Costanzas meet Susan's stuffy parents and clash over any number of topics—most significantly a "de-gifted" loaf of marble rye. Moonlighting hansom-cab driver Kramer takes the Rosses for an aromatic, Beef-A-Reeno-fueled ride. **HISTORIC MOMENT** A frustrating trip to

Schnitzer's Bakery results in Jerry mugging an elderly woman (Frances Bay, who will get her revenge in 118). **CRITIQUE** It's no mean feat tackling two potentially tasteless topics (flatulence and oral sex) in one prime-time setting. To do it so elegantly is just icing on the rye. **A**

EPISODE 116

THE CADDY

FIRST AIRED 1/25/96 **WRITERS** Kavet/Robin **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Kramer makes his caddy, Stan (Deep Space Nine's Armin Shimerman), his consigliere. Elaine's high school nemesis—"Braless Wonder" Sue Ellen Mischke—resurfaces, and Elaine's attempts to mend her "free-wheelin'" ways lead to a car accident, an O.J.-esque trial, and a new Peterman catalog item. **INTRODUCES** Brenda Strong as smug Oh Henry! candy-bar heiress Mischke, who will further irk Elaine in 124 and 135. **CRITIQUE** The caddy angle is disposable, but Elaine's beautifully articulated, anti-Mischke furor is something any red-blooded woman can endorse. **B+**

EPISODE 117

THE SEVEN

FIRST AIRED 2/1/96 **WRITERS** Berg/Schaffer **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Jerry is perplexed by Christie (Lisa Deanne), a woman who always appears to wear the same dress. Newman arbi-



PETER MEHLMAN

WRITER/COEXECUTIVE PRODUCER

AGE: 40 CREDITS: *Wings*

JOB DESCRIPTION: Mehlman is the survivor. The author of the first freelance episode (season one's "The Apartment") and 18 others since, he's helped run the show with Seinfeld in the post-Larry David era. "I've always thought my biggest accomplishment was avoiding the mines," says Mehlman. "The first couple of years, you could say the wrong thing and you were completely out of favor." This season, Mehlman has pushed the wackiness envelope. "The small stories become increasingly harder to find," he explains. "When you're on the air for eight [seasons], you have to get more creative—and it helps that your budget is virtually unlimited." A former journalist, Mehlman was hired by Jerry largely on the strength of a droll *New York Times* article about star-spotting. "I had never written dialogue in my life, other than making up quotes." That, and one "disastrous" rewritten *Wings* script. **RELATES TO:** Jerry. "We've had a somewhat similar life: living in New York, coming out to L.A., dating experiences." **FAVORITE EPISODES:** Among others, "The Hamptons" "because it was like a French farce with people going in and out of rooms." And "The Yada Yada": "That was a real throwback to the old days. No action, all talking." **CENSORED:** *Entertainment Tonight* refused to lend its theme song to the episode about Kramer's Mary Hart-induced seizures. **BIGGEST CHALLENGE:** Writing for Kramer. "My strategy is to come up with very sane stories and then let his personality take it to crazy places." **STOLEN FROM LIFE:** A guy at Mehlman's gym actually looks like Salman Rushdie. "Also, the double dip was something that happened at a party. That was a god-send—you dream of something like that." And "I'm embarrassed to say I once asked an airline about a death-in-the-family fare." (All in episode 57.)

trates a Kramer-Elaine dispute over a bike. George is incensed when a couple steals his preferred baby name (Seven—Mickey Mantle's number). **CRITIQUE** Newman's overblown take on Solomon and Jerry's escalating pique over his girlfriend's superhero-like approach to fashion eclipse a rather harping George. **B**

EPISODE 118

THE CADILLAC (ONE HOUR)

FIRST AIRED 2/8/96 **WRITERS** David/Seinfeld **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** A particularly fat stand-up check prompts Jerry to buy his father a Cadillac, which provokes a Jack Klompus-led impeachment of condo-board prez Mr. Seinfeld. George becomes aware of—then obsessed with—an opportunity to date Marisa Tomei (in a cameo). Kramer plays cat and mouse with a cable guy. **CRITIQUE** What a bad parental *Seinfeld* spin-off might look like. Throw in a woefully silly Kramer angle and you're watching a car wreck. **C-**

EPISODE 119

THE SHOWERHEAD

FIRST AIRED 2/15/96 **WRITERS** Mehlman/Gross **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** The building's new low-flow showerheads wreak havoc on Kramer's and Jerry's hair. The Costanzas and the exiled Seinfelds play chicken over who will move to Florida and who

will stay in New York. Elaine's Peterman trip to Africa ("There's a Masai sandal...") is jeopardized by her predilection for poppy-seed muffins. **HISTORIC MOMENT** A second *Tonight Show* appearance for Jerry (Jay Leno cameos). **CRITIQUE** Abrasive parental stuff—this time astute. The rest is as flat as Kramer's insufficiently rinsed hair. **C+**

EPISODE 120

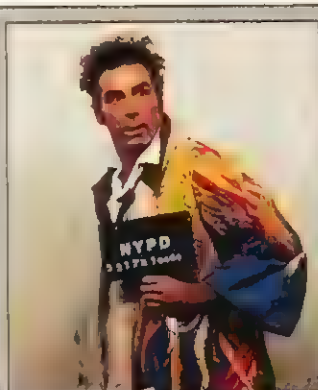
THE DOLL

FIRST AIRED 2/22/96 **WRITERS** Gammill/Pross **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Jerry must go on *Charles Grodin* with *nothin'* when Memphis FedEx exec Sally (Kathy Griffin) screws up a barbecue-sauce delivery (hello?). George's apartment becomes home to Susan's dolls—one of which is a dead ringer for Mrs. Costanza (hello?). Elaine must get an autograph from "the third" of the Three Tenors to reconnect with the Maestro (107), who has a photo from their Tuscany trip of a guy who Frank Costanza believes is his long-lost cousin Carlo (hellooooo?). **CRITIQUE** Hello? **C**

EPISODE 121

THE FRIARS CLUB

FIRST AIRED 3/7/96 **WRITER** Mandel **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Elaine is convinced new Peterman employee Bob Grossberg (Rob Schneider) is faking deafness. Prospective Friar Jerry forgets to return a borrowed Club



COLOR HIM BUSTED

THE WIG MASTERS LOAN OF JOSEPH'S AMAZING DREAMCOAT PAINTS KRAMER AS A PIMP

jacket, only to have it "misplaced" by The Flying Sandos Brothers (The Flying Karamazov Brothers). Kramer's latest Big Idea—Da Vinci sleep—nearly kills him. **CRITIQUE** More pointless repetition; this is the fourth time hearing issues have been played for laughs, not to mention another jacket-dependent riff. Only Kramer saves the day. **C+**

EPISODE 122

THE WIG MASTER

FIRST AIRED 4/1/96 **WRITER** Feresten **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Another smarmy Brit—this one a clothing salesman (Harry Van Gorkum)—is the cata-

lyst for Jerry's feeling emasculated and Elaine's suspecting she is being strung along for sex. A parking-lot prostitution ring and Susan's guest, Ethan the wig master (Ellen's Patrick Bristow), are the catalysts for George's appearing to be a john and Kramer a pimp. **CRITIQUE** A bedroom farce minus the bedrooms, and a breath of fresh air after the clumsy, shrill escapades of recent episodes. Kramer's mack-daddy transformation is another example of how gracefully this show can still pull off the ludicrous. **A-**

EPISODE 123

THE CALZONE

FIRST AIRED 4/25/96 **WRITERS** Berg/Schaffer **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Elaine keeps company with Todd Gack (John D'Aquino), a guy who won't admit they're dating despite the tell-tale signs. Jerry makes use of the persuasive talents of Nicki (Danette Tays), a "bold and beautiful...Godzilla" men can't say no to. George hooks Steinbrenner on a particular calzone, only to be banished from the pizzeria. **CRITIQUE** Contained and by the book, in a good way. **B**

EPISODE 124

THE BOTTLE DEPOSIT (ONE HOUR)

FIRST AIRED 5/2/96 **WRITERS** Kavet/Robin **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** A deranged mechanic (Brad Garrett) abducts

TOM AZZARI

PRODUCTION DESIGNER

AGE: 57 CREDITS: *Spin City*, *Newhart*, *Night Court*

JOB DESCRIPTION: As the guy who designs and decorates *Seinfeld's* sets, Azzari has the monster task of re-creating the Upper West Side on the West Coast. The '95-'96 season alone had 285 sets. "That's more than *Cheers* had in its entire run," he says.

SECRETS: Keep it real. "There are no funny sets," he says. "We're not talking Pee-wee Herman here." For instance, George's parents' house "really rings true. It looks a lot like my aunt's house in Bayside [Queens]." Another tip: Keep the background in the background. In Jerry's apartment, for instance, Azzari eventually switched the blue-and-black couch to a more subdued green because "you want the actors to really stand out."

NO-NOS: Azzari promises we'll never get to see Kramer's entire apartment: "I think it would be a gag on a gag. I don't know if I could live up to that character—it would be going over the top." **HIGHLIGHTS:** Building an \$800,000 rat-free version of a New York street, complete with rain and steam machines and a full array of shops, which debuted in 1994. (Azzari did get one detail wrong: A viewer pointed out that New York liquor stores don't sell beer—see episode 74.) Other proud moments include turning the site of *Gilligan's Island's* lagoon into Central Park, and building a \$110,000 subway car using parts from the set of *Ghost*.



KRAMER: DAN ZATY

Jerry's car (along with JFK's golf clubs, bought at an auction by Elaine for Mr. Peterman); George is mistakenly committed to a mental institution; and Kramer and Newman hit upon a lucrative recycling scam that has them Michigan-bound. **CRITIQUE** Unlike the smart, elaborate construction of their best episodes, "Bottle Deposit" seems like one sprawling ad-lib. At this point, the prospect of an hour-long episode incites dread. **C**

EPISODE 125

THE WAIT OUT

FIRST AIRED 5/9/96 WRITERS Mehlman/Matt Selman DIR. Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Elaine and Jerry pounce on newly separated couple David (Cary Elwes) and Beth (Ned and Stacey's Debra Messing) after a "folksy" comment from George splits them up. Kramer starts wearing jeans again. **HISTORIC MOMENT** Elaine drives (badly). **CRITIQUE** Highlights the latest expression of a trend that will continue into next season: This year, as Elaine's look has become increasingly (and, we think, inappropriately) glam, her appealingly aggressive spunk has crossed the line into obnoxious boorishness. Why? **C+**

EPISODE 126

THE INVITATIONS

FIRST AIRED 5/16/96 WRITER David DIR. Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** In the series' most controversial episode, Susan



ALL THUMBS

ELAINE DANCES HER WAY TO OFFICE JOKE

Biddle Ross dies from licking cheap wedding-invitation envelopes—to George's extreme relief. Jerry meets his cereal-lovin', wisecrackin', Superman-obsessed counterpart, Jeannie Steinman (Janeane Garofalo), and proposes marriage—to his immediate distress ("I can't be with someone like me—I hate myself!"). **CRITIQUE** A sublime coda for the season and cocreator David. However, the resulting uproar over the macabre callousness of this episode perplexes us. This is, after all, a show where Jerry once mugged an old woman for a loaf of bread. **A**

SEASON EIGHT

EPISODE 127

THE FOUNDATION

FIRST AIRED 9/19/96 WRITERS Berg/Schaffer DIR. Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** The Rosses establish a foundation in Susan's honor. To his disgust and surprise, George finds that (1) he's on the board of directors, and (2) his dead fiancée was worth millions. Elaine—now running the show, with burnt-out Peterman in Burma—fashions the Urban Sombrero. Kramer takes up karate. **INTRODUCES** Bruce Davison as Mr. Wyck, chairman of Susan's foundation. **HISTORIC MOMENT** No more opening stand-up; Seinfeld is now too busy picking up the creative slack in David's absence. **CRITIQUE** A solid return, capitalizing nicely, yet again, on an untimely demise. Kramer's encounter with the "little fists of fury," however, foreshadows the more slapstick bent of this season. **B+**

EPISODE 128

THE SOUL MATE

FIRST AIRED 9/26/96 WRITER Mehlman DIR. Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Kramer's attraction to Jerry's new girlfriend, Pam (Kim Myers), makes a formerly blasé Jerry gaga over her. Elaine, in turn, is gonzo for her flighty equal, Kevin. George—thinking Wyck suspects him of guilt in Susan's death—pulls a

"Jerry Lewis" and secretly tapes a foundation meeting. **INTRODUCES** Tim DeKay as Kevin, Bizarro Jerry in the next episode. **HISTORIC MOMENT** A boyishly cropped Elaine. **CRITIQUE** An agreeable paean to infatuation, despite an awful Jerry-chasing-Newman bit (see foreshadowing in previous critique). **B**

EPISODE 129

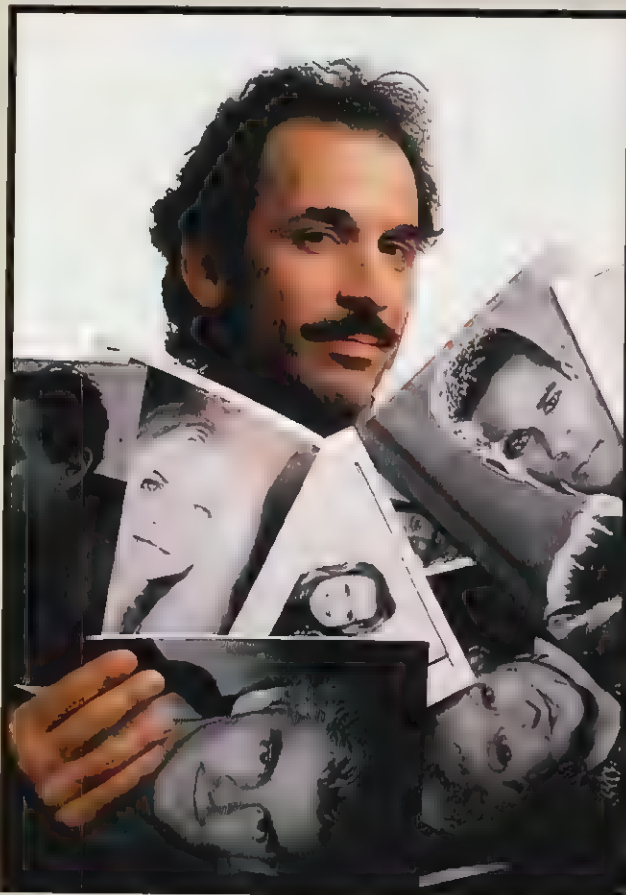
THE BIZARRO JERRY

FIRST AIRED 10/3/96 WRITER Mandel DIR. Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Jerry's whole system breaks down as George becomes a model magnet, Kramer becomes a nine-to-five suit, and Elaine takes up with a trio of new buds (Kevin, Gene, and Feldman), the sensitive, cerebral opposites of her current klatch. If that isn't enough, Jerry's dating Gillian (Kristin Bauer), a man-handed woman. **CRITIQUE** This Superman reference writ large makes for the first post-David masterpiece. Two inspired moments: Jerry's wifely bickering with ersatz exec Kramer and the sidewalk showdown between Elaine's two worlds. **A**

EPISODE 130

THE LITTLE KICKS

FIRST AIRED 10/10/96 WRITER Feresten DIR. Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Elaine's dancing ("a full-body dry heave set to music") makes her an object of ridicule among her staff. When Peterman employee Anna (Rebecca McFarland) gets a



MARC HIRSCHFELD

CASTING DIRECTOR

AGE: 40 CREDITS: *Married...With Children*, *The Days and Nights of Molly Dodd*, *The Larry Sanders Show*

JOB DESCRIPTION: On board from the get-go, Hirschfeld not only helped choose the major players but has cast enough quirky, memorable guest stars to fill the Manhattan white pages. "It's an extremely intense experience," he says. "As opposed to the one or two guest stars you have on *Friends* or *Frasier*, we just had an episode with 26 roles." **SECRETS:** Bucking sitcom tradition, Hirschfeld opts for dramatic, intense actors (e.g., *Schindler's List*'s Elina Lowensohn in "The Gymnast"). "They understand that it's important to commit to the character," he says. He also looks for unusual, "textured" faces, à la Len Lesser (Uncle Leo) or Jerry Stiller (Frank Costanza). "We're not casting a soap opera here." **HIGHLIGHTS:**

Though the network at first pooh-poohed them, *Seinfeld*'s supporting cast has proven to be the finest in sitcomland. How'd Hirschfeld choose them? Louis-Dreyfus beat out Rosie O'Donnell and hundreds of other actresses with her "honesty and directness." Alexander bested Larry Miller (*Common Law*) by playing up George's neuroses. And Richards had been a Hirschfeld fave ever since he tried out for *MWC*'s Al Bundy. Meanwhile, many of Hirschfeld's guest stars have vaulted onto Hollywood's A list (see page 31).

"Even from the start, a lot of industry people watched the show," he says. **BIGGEST CHALLENGE:** Casting Elaine's head-shaving boyfriend (episode 137), a role that eventually went to John Michael Higgins (*The Late Shift*). "We had to find an actor just crazy enough to do it," says Hirschfeld. The realism-loving producers, you see, insisted the actor actually shave his scalp.



BEHIND THE SCENES

crush on George, believing him to be a "bad boy," he eagerly makes like a latter-day Fonzie. Kramer's pistol-packin' pal Brody (Neil Guntoli) forces Jerry to become a video-bootlegging auteur. **CRITIQUE** Jerry's and George's forays into delinquency pay off, but Elaine's spastic mutation of the Hitchhike provides the mother lode. Sweet fancy Moses! **A**

EPISODE 131

THE PACKAGE

FIRST AIRED 10/17/96 **WRITER** Jennifer Crittenden **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** "Difficult" Elaine is shunned by the medical community. George pursues a misguided "dance" of seduction with photo-shop employee Sheila (Heather Campbell). Thanks to Kramer, Jerry is investigated for mail fraud. **CRITIQUE** Elaine is not nearly as difficult as watching this flaccid package. The medical-establishment-as-conspiratorial-secret-society gambit is a loser, and so is an overused Newman; like any pungent seasoning, he's best in small amounts. **C-**

EPISODE 132

THE FATIGUES

FIRST AIRED 10/31/96 **WRITERS** Kavet/Robin **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** It's mentor madness, as Jerry, Elaine, and George find themselves guiding the careers of hack Ovaltine comic Bania, soldier-of-fortune mail-room guy Eddie Sherman (Ned Bellamy), and risk-management student Abby (My So-Called Life's A.J. Langer). Kramer's hosting of a Jewish singles night provokes Frank Costanza's Platoon-like memories of a Korean War cooking debacle. **CRITIQUE** Bania's wide-eyed ranking ("That's gold, Jerry, gold!") just slays us, as does most of this military-tinged romp. **B**

EPISODE 133

THE CHECKS

FIRST AIRED 11/7/96 **WRITERS** Steve O'Donnell/Gammill/Pross **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Jerry (very) modestly cashes in on Japanese stardom thanks to a spot on *The Super Terrific Happy Hour*. Kramer puts up a trio of Japanese tourists. Elaine dates Überyuppie Brett (James Patrick Stuart), a "Desperado" devotee who won't share his song. **HISTORIC MOMENT** Wilhelm is abducted by the Sunshine Carpet Cleaners cult. **CRITIQUE** A



READY TO RUMBLE

JERRY AND KRAMER PUT CHAMPION COCK LITTLE JERRY THROUGH HIS PACES

plethora of in-jokes (references to the Urban Sombrero, the NBC pilot, Jerry's stand-up act, etc.) and one unforgettable image—the Japanese bunking in Kramer's dresser—make this B-worthy. Our weariness with yet another eccentric-to-the-max Elaine boyfriend demotes it to a **B-**.

EPISODE 134

THE CHICKEN ROASTER

FIRST AIRED 11/14/96 **WRITERS** Berg/Schaffer **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Kramer's Newman-abetted Kenny Rogers Roasters addiction overcomes his initial boycotting of the chain. Elaine's expense-account abuse takes her to Burma in search of Peterman and sends George on a misguided pursuit of a hat saleswoman. **CRITIQUE** An episode as unconvincing as Seinfeld's acting (highlighted here in a brief Jerry-and-Kramer identity switch) is salvaged by Kramer and Newman's clandestine gluttony. **B-**

EPISODE 135

THE ABSTINENCE

FIRST AIRED 11/21/96 **WRITER** Steve Koren **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** George's forced celibacy turns him into a *Phenomenon*-style brainiac. Elaine dates a doofus almost-doctor. Ben (Bob Odenkirk), and tries the no-sex route, with brain-draining results. Kramer's at-home smoking lounge ends in a tobacco-company lawsuit. **HISTORIC MOMENT** We learn of a second alma mater that Jerry and George share, Edward R. Murrow Junior High School, when Jerry is bumped from their Career Day. **CRITIQUE** Another foray into bizarro land as Elaine and George become mental opposites. But we don't mind repetition when it yields such smart comedy. Bonus points for the David Letterman closer. **B+**

EPISODE 136

THE ANDREA DORIA

FIRST AIRED 12/19/96 **WRITER** Feresten **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** To score a two-bedroom apartment, George must convince a tenant board he's more pathetic than a shipwreck survivor. Big-headed Elaine dates bad breaker-upper Alan (Tom Gallup). Newman's dreams of a Hawaii transfer get surprising support from Jerry. M.D.-hating Kramer seeks a doggy-style cure for his cough. **CRITIQUE** With Kramer channeling Lassie and George playing the victim to the hilt, how can you miss? **B**

EPISODE 137

THE LITTLE JERRY

FIRST AIRED 1/9/97 **WRITER** Crittenden **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Kramer buys a rooster and is soon running afoul of cockfighting impresario/deli owner Marcelino (*Murder One*'s Miguel Sandoval). George finds out that fugitive sex is even better than conjugal-visit sex when convict squeeze Celia (Andrea Bendewald) breaks out and

ALTER EGOS

SEINFELD HAS FREQUENTLY INTEGRATED ITS versions of real-life luminaries into its cast: Calvin Klein, John F. Kennedy Jr., Fidel Castro, the Soup Nazi, and, most notoriously, Yankee owner George Steinbrenner and catalog tycoon J. Peterman. The latter two spoke about their on-screen doppelgängers (see also page 47). —KB

GEORGE STEINBRENNER

WERE YOU ASKED IF YOUR NAME COULD BE USED? Jerry Seinfeld personally called and asked. I don't really mind [the way I'm portrayed]. If you can't laugh at yourself, then you're not much of a person. It also pleases my grandchildren.

IS IT AN ACCURATE PORTRAYAL? If I'm so funny, how come more of my people at the Yankees don't laugh?

LAST YEAR YOU AGREED TO APPEAR IN THE SEASON FINALE. WHAT WAS THAT LIKE? When Julia Louis-Dreyfus came up and told me how exciting it was to be doing an episode with me, that made me feel 20 years younger—until she said that I had been a classmate of her father's at Culver Military Academy. Well, sure as hell I was, and I remember him well!

WERE YOU ANGRY WHEN YOUR SCENE WAS ULTIMATELY CUT? I guess I don't have much talent. When they said they were going to have George Costanza's fiancée die after licking the glue from wedding envelopes, I didn't have much interest in the episode anyway. I felt it was sick.



THE BOSSES

SEINFELD'S STEINBRENNER (BOTTOM) IS HEARD (VOICE: LARRY DAVID); MORE THAN SEEN (BODY: LEE BEAR)

pops in. Elaine encourages bald-by-choice Kurt (John Michael Higgins) to grow his hair back, only to find he's losing it. **CRITIQUE** Jerry and Kramer training their champion pecker had us howling—a mere moment in a *media hora muy excelente*. **A-**

EPISODE 138

THE MONEY

FIRST AIRED 1/16/97 **WRITER** Mehlman **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Financial insecurity abounds: George worries that his parents are blowing his nest egg; Elaine finds herself demoted when Peterman returns; and the Seinfelds,

fearing Jerry's broke (after he bounces a check at Marcelino's in 137), sell the Cadillac to Jack Klompus. **CRITIQUE** Awash in comic transactions but bankrupt nonetheless. **C**

EPISODE 139

THE COMEBACK

FIRST AIRED 1/30/97 **WRITERS** Kavet/Robin **DIR.** Trainor **SYNOPSIS** George is insulted during a Yankees lunch meeting and becomes obsessed with delivering his (he thinks) brilliant "jerk store" retort. Abysmal tennis player and pro-shop manager Milos (Mark Harelik) recruits Jerry to help >>

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW SEINFELD...

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS highlight some of the more obscure moments and conversational tidbits in the hit sitcom. If you can correctly answer more than 10, not only do you know the show, you may want to consider getting a life.

1. If George were abducted by aliens, where would he rather end up: in their zoo or their circus?
2. According to Jerry, how many dates qualify for a face-to-face breakup?
3. Who is Billy Mumfry?
4. How many times have Jerry and Elaine had sex?
5. What is Cousin Jeffrey's claim to fame?
6. Name Kramer's favorite soap opera.
7. According to Jerry, the best feature of a heavy relationship is...
8. What is the significance of *Sic semper tyrannis*?
9. George has a poster of what hair-challenged star in his bathroom?
10. Jerry quotes from what movie as he stands at Susan Ross' grave?
11. Golden Boy is...
12. What childhood

taunt was directed at George regarding Mrs. Costanza?

13. Name the character Kramer played on *Murphy Brown*.
14. What was Jerry's pre-stand-up job?
15. What World War II prime minister is scorned by George and Jerry?
16. What is George's regular Monk's lunch order?
17. According to George, what is the biggest sucker deal in retail?
18. Jerry's custom-blended cereal has

what percentage of bran flakes?

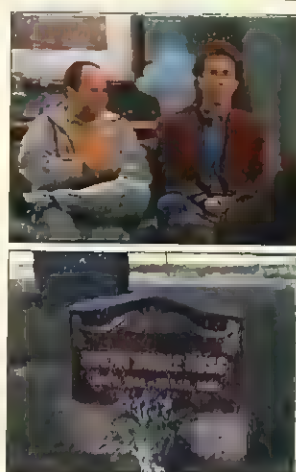
19. Kramer has played backgammon with which famous model?
20. If George were a porn star, what would he call himself?
21. Kramer rarely says yes, he says...
22. Jerry has had two phone numbers—what are they?
23. George refers to Seattle as...
24. According to Jerry, what's the biggest step in a male friendship?
25. In the first pilot

meeting with NBC, what is the name of the Off Broadway play George claims to have written?

26. What are Jerry's telltale signs that a man is in love?
27. A sign for what railroad hangs over Kramer's bed?
28. Kramer compared Jerry and Elaine's romantic relationship to that of which President and his wife?
29. Boys give each other atomic wedgies. How, according to

Elaine, do girls torment each other?

30. Who has Newman booked to play at his millennium party?
31. George's parents' address is...
32. Who regularly eats at Reggies?
33. Elaine thinks what percentage of people are good-looking?
34. Name Jerry's shampoo of choice.
35. What was the item of clothing that launched J. Peterman's career?
36. "It's like 10 dates in one shot" is Kramer's definition of what?
37. Define "the swirl."
38. Elaine wanted to see what movie instead of *The English Patient*?
39. What are Jerry's and George's PINs?
40. If George could take just one book to a desert island, what would it be?
41. Define Kavorka.
42. Name Jerry's and George's favorite explorers.



PUSHING THE ENVELOPE

GEORGE AND JERRY PITCH NBC;
JERRY GAVE SUSAN AN APT EULOGY

ANSWERS

1. The zoo: "I could set more of my own schedule" (episode 129) 2. Seven (28) 3. "A cockeyed optimist who got caught up in the dirty game of world diplomacy and international intrigue"—and the main character in a manuscript Elaine evaluates for Viking (100) 4. Jerry says 25; Elaine says 37 (14) 5. According to Uncle Leo, Jeffrey organized the New York City Parks Department's edible-foliage tour (7) 6. *The Bold and the Beautiful* (3, 48) 7. Make-up sex—topped only by conjugal-visit sex (106) 8. The Latin phrase—meaning "Thus always to tyrants"—was yelled by John Wilkes Booth as he assassinated Lincoln; adopted by Crazy Joe Davola when he jumped Jerry (61) 9. *NYPD Blue*'s Dennis Franz (129) 10. *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan*: "She's not really dead if we find

a way to remember her" (127) 11. The first T-shirt Jerry wears out of the laundry, until it "dies" (75) 12. "Your mother's uglier than Hazel," referring to the TV show starring Shirley Booth (30) 13. Steven Snell (39) 14. He sold umbrellas on the street and claims to have invented "the twirl" (133) 15. Britain's Neville Chamberlain: "You could hold his head in the toilet [and] he'd still give you half of Europe" (42) 16. Tuna on toast with coleslaw and coffee (32) 17. Duty-free shops (50) 18. 25%—40% was too much for him (38) 19. Elle Macpherson, in the Cayman Islands, in the nude (32) 20. Buck Naked (49) 21. "Giddy-up!" 22. KL5-8383 (34) and KL5-2390 (84) 23. "The pesto of cities," due to its sudden trendiness (17) 24. Helping a guy move; "it's like going all the way" (34) 25. *La Cocina* (42) 26. "When she comes home, are you cleaning up a lot? D'ya do the tub...on your knees—Ajax, hands scrubbing, the whole

deal?... Tub is love." (62) 27. Jungfrau 28. The tempestuous union of Abe Lincoln and Mary Todd (37) 29. "We just tease someone until they get an eating disorder" (22) 30. Christopher Cross (146) 31. 1344 Queens Boulevard, Flushing, N.Y. (71) 32. Kevin, Gene, and Feldman, Elaine's Bizarro friends (129) 33. 25%; Jerry thinks only 4-6%—the rest are "undatable!" (108) 34. Prell (74) 35. The Pygmy Pullover, for "the naked natives of the Bantu Besh" (124) 36. Attending a funeral of a girlfriend's loved one (57) 37. A capper to "the move," Jerry's surefire sexual technique, performed "clockwise, but it's not written in stone" (101) 38. *Sack Lunch*, starring Dabney Coleman (143) 39. Jerry's is Jor-El, Superman's father; George's is Bosco (111) 40. *The Three Musketeers* (145) 41. The lure of the animal—and what, according to a Latvian priest, female-magnet Kramer is cursed with (72) 42. Magellan and De Soto (34)

him save face. Elaine begins a phone affair with mysterious video-store cineaste Vincent. Kramer drafts a living will. **CRITIQUE** George has a vindictive field day. And once again the show milks ethnicity for laughs, this time with pompous yet inept Eastern Bloc émigré Milos. **B**

EPISODE 140

THE VAN BUREN BOYS

FIRST AIRED 2/6/97 WRITER *Darin Henry* DIR. *Ackerman* SYNOPSIS Jerry dates Ellen (Christine Taylor), a "fantastic" woman who nevertheless appears to have no friends. (George to Jerry: "Every group has [its loser]—like us, with Elaine.") George selects a kindred spirit as the first Susan Ross Foundation scholar—underachieving liar Steven Koren (Jed Rhein). Peterman co-opts Kramer's life stories for his autobiography. **CRITIQUE** George's sponsorship of his deceitful protégé is abandoned too soon (in favor of the dopey Van Buren Boys angle), as is the Ellen-as-social-pariah concept. And Kramer's "ripping yarns" should have been hysterical; instead, he's reduced to slipping on golf balls. **C+**

EPISODE 141

THE SUSIE

FIRST AIRED 2/13/97 WRITER *Mandel* DIR. *Ackerman* SYNOPSIS More identity games, as Elaine is mistaken for a nonexistent coworker named Susie; Kramer becomes George's girlfriend by proxy; bookie Mike Moffet (38) believes Jerry is a hitman. **CRITIQUE** "Susie" is possibly the most ill-conceived premise yet. Two things save this from D-dom: Kramer and George's romantic rapport and the latter's infamous *Greatest American Hero* answering-machine message. **C+**

EPISODE 142

THE POT HOLE

FIRST AIRED 2/20/97 WRITERS *O'Donnell/Dan O'Keefe* DIR. *Ackerman* SYNOPSIS Obsessions run amok: Fastidious Jerry can't kiss his girlfriend (*Melrose Place*'s Kristin Davis) after her toothbrush falls in the toilet; Elaine's hankering for a Chinese flounder dish has her assuming an address within the restaurant's delivery zone; and Kramer takes the adopt-a-highway concept a bit too literally. **HISTORIC MOMENT** The highway scenes, pothole explosion, and the toilet-eye camera shot, add up to, according to Seinfeld, the most technically ambitious sitcom episode in TV history. **CRITIQUE** Physical high jinks dominate. We, however, are sorely missing the witty erudition that is, after all, the show's claim to fame. **C+**

EPISODE 143

THE ENGLISH PATIENT

FIRST AIRED 3/13/97 WRITER *Koren* DIR. *Ackerman* SYNOPSIS Elaine's *English Patient* antipathy turns the world against her. A trip to Florida finds Jerry mired in one-upmanship with

the Mandelbaum clan, headed by Izzy (Lloyd Bridges), and transporting Cubans (literally) back to Kramer. George meets a foxy blond and becomes obsessed with her boyfriend—his supposed twin. **CRITIQUE** The one pure travesty—unbearably simplistic and broad (especially that Mandelbaum crap)—of this season made us feel as burned as the episode's eponymous protagonist. **D-**

EPISODE 144

THE NAP

FIRST AIRED 4/10/97 WRITERS *Kavet/Robin* DIR. *Ackerman* SYNOPSIS A sleep-deprived George engages Jerry's conscientious carpenter, Conrad (Stephen Lee), to construct a mini-bedroom beneath his office desk. Kramer unwittingly initiates a lap-swimming craze—in the East River. **CRITIQUE** A good start (George as workplace snoozer) quickly devolves into a lame terrorist farce. Remember what we said about Newman in 131? That goes double for Steinbrenner. **C+**

EPISODE 145

THE YADA YADA

FIRST AIRED 4/24/97 WRITERS *Mehlman/Jill Franklyn* DIR. *Ackerman* SYNOPSIS Conversation fudger "Yada, yada" infects the group thanks to George's succinct, shoplifting girlfriend Marcy (Suzanne Cryer). Jerry suspects that dentist Tim has converted to Judaism purely for the jokes. After Elaine screws up an adoption opportunity for Beth (125)—now married to Arnie (Stephen Caffrey)—she sinks to a new low redeeming herself. Kramer and Mickey squabble over double dates. **CRITIQUE** Bad news: A feckless Kramer/Mickey sideshow gets no help from gratuitous Robert Wagner and Jill St. John cameos. And are we *actually* to believe that Elaine has stooped to quid pro quo sex with the adoption counselor? Good news: Tim's conversion and Jerry's "antidote" outrage against it (containing the show's only outright acknowledgment of its ethnicity—Jerry's anyway) are brilliantly handled and a welcome return to the verbal virtuosity we love. As for Jerry in the confessional—a blessed event! **B+**

EPISODE 146

THE MILLENNIUM

FIRST AIRED 5/1/97 WRITER *Crittenden* DIR. *Ackerman* SYNOPSIS The Mets will hire George, but only if he gets himself fired; alas, each of his purposeful fiascos (including streaking across Yankee Stadium—in a bodysuit) only makes him more of a hero to Steinbrenner. Competing plans for a 1999 New Year's Eve party force Kramer to choose between Jerry and Newman. Elaine tries to drive Putumayo out of business. **CRITIQUE** Though Jerry gets stuck with a silly speed-dialing subplot, we never tire of watching George fail—this time upward. **B-**

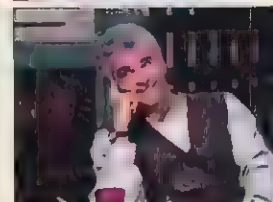
ALTER EGOS

J. PETERMAN

HOW INVOLVED WERE YOU IN BECOMING PART OF THE SHOW? I found out [I was on *Seinfeld*] by watching it. But then they contacted me soon after. I think [the first Peterman episode] ran about the same time as the Soup Nazi, and apparently he got a little bent because of it. But I said, "Fine, have a good time." Some people think because they make fun of me, it's not so great. I say [Seinfeld] isn't making fun of me, he's making fun of the character.

IS IT AN ACCURATE DEPICTION OF THE PETERMAN WORKPLACE? No—we do have fun, but it's not quite that funny. The show asked for some props from our offices [actually based in Lexington, Ky.], and we've sent them some pictures. So stuff that hangs in their offices is real.

HOW HAS IT HELPED OR HURT YOU? Our name recognition has gone up substantially. Now it's up to us to take advantage of it. **WOULD YOU HIRE ELAINE?** Probably not.



CLOTHESHORSES

PETERMAN (TOP) IS NOT NEARLY AS VERBOSE AS HIS SEINFELD COHORT

EPISODE 147

THE MUFFIN TOPS

FIRST AIRED 5/8/97 WRITER *Feresten* DIR. *Ackerman* SYNOPSIS Mistaken for an out-of-towner by Mary Anne (Rena Sofer), an attractive New York Visitor's Center employee, George avidly assumes the role. Lippman returns, co-opting Elaine's brainstorm: A store selling muffins, sans stumps. Kramer creates the Peterman Reality Bus Tour in response to the autobiography filled with the K-man's life stories (140). Jerry shaves his chest. **HISTORIC MOMENTS** George is traded by Steinbrenner to Tyler Chicken in Arkansas. Kramer's reality tour is based on an actual NYC jaunt hosted by the real-life Kramer. **CRITIQUE** The top of this muffin is deliciously moist and tasty. Midway through, however, it suddenly goes stale, crumbling into howling inanity. Nothing will prepare you for that moonlit bus drive—to the dump, indeed. **A** for the first half. **F** for the second.

EPISODE 148

THE SUMMER OF GEORGE

FIRST AIRED 5/15/97 WRITERS *Berg/Schofer* DIR. *Ackerman* SYNOPSIS Kramer

inadvertently receives a Tony for the musical *Scarsdale Surprise*, then is asked to fire their "train wreck" of a star, Raquel Welch (playing herself). Now-unemployed George offers to be Jerry's summer intern, helping him attend to the needs of Lanette (Amanda Peet), a particularly high-maintenance girlfriend. Elaine is pegged a catty shrew, then stalked, by coworker Sam (*Saturday Night Live*'s Molly Shannon), she of the simian walk. The season concludes with a (rather lazy) harkening back to last year's finale: George gets his comeuppance when an invitation-related accident lands him in the hospital. **CRITIQUE** All kinds of, um, wacky stuff goes on in this, er, really convoluted.... Hey, you try writing 20,691 words about nothing! **B-**

YADA YADA

EDITED BY MARY KAY SCHILLING. EPISODE GUIDE REPORTED BY DANIEL STEFFENS. RESEARCH COORDINATED BY LOUIS VOGEL. ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY CARMELA CIURARU, KIMBLE HLEBING, MARLENN MCCANNUELL, AND TIM PURTELL.

REVIEWS

A CRITICAL LOOK AT THIS WEEK IN ENTERTAINMENT



The Lost World: Jurassic Park

STARRING
Jeff Goldblum
Julianne Moore
RATED PG-13
134 MINUTES

MIDWAY THROUGH **THE LOST WORLD: JURASSIC PARK** (*Universal*), Steven Spielberg attempts to answer the question, What could be scarier than a *Tyrannosaurus rex*? The answer: two *Tyrannosaurus rexes*. They arrive in the night, in the middle of a muddy rainstorm, to rescue the infant that's

been stolen from their nest by mercenary hunters. We're on Isla Sorna, a mountainous tropical paradise in Costa Rica, where happy packs of dinosaurs roam the forests in ecological harmony. Our heroes, Dr. Ian Malcolm (Jeff Goldblum) and his paleontologist girlfriend, Sarah (Julianne Moore), have come to photograph and study the creatures but leave them otherwise undisturbed. They've freed the baby *T. rex* from captivity and taken it back to their techno-trailer, where they're desperately trying to put a splint on its broken leg. (File that one under "Easier said than done.")

It's then that Mommy and Daddy show up—two giant, scaly reptile heads, complete with epic yellow incisors, peering into the windows on either side of the trailer. This is the first time in the movie we've set eyes on the grandest of all reptiles, and we expect some good old-fashioned primitive mayhem. But the *T. rexes*, frankly, don't seem all that upset. Rather than, say, making a hungry play for Dr. Malcolm's thigh, they decide,

Lounging Lizards

Those blockbusting dinosaurs are back in Steven Spielberg's 'The Lost World: Jurassic Park,' but despite a higher digital dino-count the magic is missing. **by Owen Gleiberman**

The Seinfeld

Pilot—July 5, 1989 (The show was originally called "The Seinfeld Chronicles")

Good News, Bad News 7/5/89 Jerry meets a woman on the road, yet expectations are confusing for him when she says she'll pop into town. Meanwhile, Jerry tries to read signals George is explaining to him. Where's Elaine?

Season 1 (4 episodes and then the pilot was re-run)

2. The Stakeout 5/31/90 This is the episode that many claim was the first. Elaine's friend gives a birthday party. Jerry attends only to end up flirting with someone there and ultimately Jerry and George stake out her work building to meet her. In the rest of the series, Jerry's father is different Jerry has a sofa bed in this one which he won't have in episode 6.

3. The Robbery 6/7/90 Jerry asks Elaine to house-sit for him. Kramer leaves the door open and the apartment gets robbed. After George finds a great apartment for Jerry, he gets jealous so neither of them take it.

4. Male Unbonding 6/14/90 Jerry makes a guy he has known since he was ten, cry after trying to break up.

Kramer wants to start a make-your-own pie pizza place.

5. The Stock Tip 6/21/90 Upon George convincing Jerry to invest in the stock market, Kramer likes it when Jerry loses money. A Vermont weekend Jerry spends with his girlfriend turns out bad. Elaine gets dumped after her boyfriend's cats make her allergic.

Season 2 (half season with 12 new episodes)

6. The Ex-Girlfriend 1/23/91 George dumps his girlfriend after mustering courage. Then Jerry starts dating her but she dumps Jerry because she dislikes his act. Elaine has it out with a guy who has stopped saying hello to her. Kramer's obsessing over wanting fresh fruit.

7. The Pony Remark 1/30/91 This is a top ten list choice! Jerry insults an elderly relative. A remark about how immigrants shouldn't have ponies results in her death. Then, Jerry feels she haunted him during the softball championship. Kramer is going to put levels in his apartment.

8. The Jacket 2/8/91 Jerry has found a great suede jacket with a



pink and white striped liner. He wears it in a snowstorm to meet Elaine's father and it gets ruined. George can't get out of his head.

9. The Phone Message 2/13/91 George leaves a bad message on a woman's answering machine. George plots to stop her from listening to it. Jerry dates a woman liking the Dockers commercials.

10. The Apartment 4/4/91 Elaine almost moves into the apartment above Jerry. To attract women, George wears a wedding ring. Who's a bigger idiot? Jerry and George argue over this.

11. The Statue 4/11/91 Jerry's

apartment gets cleaned by someone who may or may not have stolen a statue that matched one that George broke when he was a kid. Kramer gets the statue back.

12. The Revenge 4/18/91 George slips his boss a Mickey after he quits his job. Jerry and Kramer put cement in a washing machine when they think the laundry guy took money that Jerry left in his bag.

13. The Heart Attack 4/25/91 George isn't having a heart attack when he thinks he is. He does need his tonsils out so Kramer takes him to see a holistic healer. Elaine dates Dr. Tongue and Jerry

Classic George Lines from Seinfeld:

■ "I'm much more comfortable criticizing people behind their backs."

■ "I drive them to lesbianism, he brings them back."

■ "Divorce is very difficult, especially on the kids. Of course, I'm the result of my parents having stayed together, so you never know."

■ "Was that wrong? Should I not have done that? I tell ya, I gotta plead ignorance on this thing because if anyone had said anything to me at all when I first started here that that sort of thing was frowned upon..."

■ "I just gave up a lifetime of guilt-free sex and free tickets to every major sporting event in Madison Square Garden. So all hail, for I am COSTANZA, LORD... OF THE IDIOTS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

■ "My whole life is a lie."

■ "My life is ruined because of the puffy shirt."

■ "Was it a pick... or a scratch?"

■ "I was in the pool! I was in the pool!"

■ "Actually it was in gym class. I was trying to climb the ropes and Jerry was spotting me. I kept slipping and burning my thighs and then finally I slipped and fell on Jerry's head. We've been close ever since."

■ "My name is George. I'm unemployed, I live with my parents."

■ "Do you ever just get down on your knees and just thank God that you know me and have access to my dementia?"

■ "I would like to dip my bald head in oil and rub it all over your body."

■ "The sea was angry that day, my friends. Like an old man trying to send back soup at a deli."

Walk list, Jerry fears she's too good ("You can't have sex with someone you admire!"). Elaine's loyalty to her discontinued birth control method (the Today Sponge) prompts hoarding and a new boyfriend-screening process. Comments: We learn that Jerry relabels his jeans (from a 32" to 31" waist).

4. THE CALZONE

First Aired: 4/25/96

Writer: Berg/Schaffer

Director: Ackerman

Summary: Elaine keeps company with Todd Gack (John D'Aquino), a guy who won't admit they're dating despite the telltale signs. Jerry makes use of the persuasive talents of Nicki (Danette Tays), a "bold and beautiful... Godzilla" men can't say no to. George hooks Steinbrenner on a particular calzone, only to be banished from the pizzeria.

5. THE INVITATIONS

First Aired: 5/16/96

Writer: David

Director: Ackerman

Summary: In the series' most controversial episode, Susan Bidle Ross dies from licking cheap wedding-invitation envelopes—to George's extreme relief. Jerry meets his cereal-lovin', wise-crackin', Superman-obsessed counterpart, Jeannie Steinman (Janeane Garofalo), and proposes marriage—to his immediate distress ("I can't be with someone like me—I hate myself!").

6. THE FUSILLI JERRY

First Aired: 4/27/95

Writer: Gross/ Jonathan

Gross/Ron Hauge/Charlie Rubin

Director: Ackerman

Summary: Elaine dates Jerry's grease-monkey pal David Puddy and discovers that he's stolen Jerry's "move" (it requires a headboard). Kramer tries to live up to his "Assman" vanity plates.

7. THE MANGO

First Aired: 9/16/93

Writer: Lawrence H. Levy /

Buck Dancer

Director: Cheronos

Summary: George gets "the tap" from his latest squeeze, Karen, a.k.a. Risotto Girl (Relativity's Lisa Edelstein), undermining his sexual confidence. Jerry learns

that Elaine "faked 'em all" and begs for another shot.

8. THE BUBBLE BOY

First Aired: 10/7/92

Writers: David/ Charles

Director: Cheronos

Summary: Susan invites George, Jerry, and Elaine up to her parents' cabin in "pie country." A Yoo-hoo salesman (Brian Doyle-Murray) guilt-trips Jerry into visiting his hermetically cocooned son on the way. When all is said and done, an enraged George has burst the bubble and a careless, stogie-puffing Kramer has burned down the cabin.

9. THE CONTEST

First Aired: 11/18/92

Writer: David

Director: Cheronos

Summary: George's mother catches him, you know, with a copy of Glamour magazine, prompting a contest to see who can remain "master of their domain."

10. THE OUTING

First Aired: 2/11/93

Writer: Charles

Director: Cheronos

Summary: A joke perpetrated by Elaine leads a New York University student reporter (Paula Marshall) to assume that (single, thin, neat) Jerry and George are gay. Not that there's anything wrong with that.

■ Jim Lafay

Associate Editor

1. THE SOUP NAZI

First Aired: 11/2/95

Writer: Spike Feresten

Director: Ackerman

Summary: The excellence of a local soup merchant's (Larry Thomas) product is exceeded only by his rigid guidelines for customer behavior. Jerry's incessant baby talk with a new chick drives a wedge between him and George. Antique-collecting thugs (John Paragon and Yul Vazquez) terrorize Kramer.

2. THE RYE

First Aired: 1/4/96

Writer: Leifer

Director: Ackerman

Summary: Elaine's desire to do "everything" proves disastrous for sponge-worthy sax player John

(Jeff Yagher). The Costanzas meet Susan's stuffy parents and clash over any number of topics—most significantly a "de-gifted" loaf of marble rye. Moonlighting hansom-cab driver Kramer takes the Rosses for an aromatic, Beef-A-Reeno-fueled ride.

3. THE PUFFY SHIRT

First Aired: 9/23/93

Writer: David

Director: Cheronos

Summary: George, reduced to living with his parents, embarks on a hand-modeling career. Kramer's barely audible designer girlfriend, Leslie, has Jerry unwittingly agree to wear a pirate shirt on the Today show.

4. THE MARINE BIOLOGIST

First Aired: 2/10/94

Writers: Ron Hauge/ Charlie

Rubin

Director: Cheronos

Summary: Jerry's lying saddles George with another ersatz profession—marine biology—and inadvertently jeopardizes Elaine's professional relationship with testy Russian novelist Yuri Testikov (George Murdock).

5. THE OPPOSITE

First Aired: 5/19/94

Writers: Andy

Cowan/David/Seinfeld

Director: Cheronos

Summary: George's epiphany—that his whole life is the opposite of what he'd intended—inspires him to act entirely against his instincts. The result: Victoria, a babelicious girlfriend (Cybill's Dedee Pfeiffer), a front-office job for the Yankees, and an apartment. Meanwhile, Elaine loses everything—in effect becoming George. Kramer promotes his coffee-table book on Regis & Kathie Lee.

6. THE CIGAR STORE INDIAN

First Aired: 12/9/93

Writers: Gammill/ Pross

Director: Cheronos

Summary: Jerry walks a politically incorrect minefield as he pursues Native American Winona (Kimberly Norris). Elaine is stalked by a geek (Sam Lloyd). George is grounded for having sex in his parents' bed. Kramer

brainstorms a coffee-table book—about coffee tables.

7. THE PICK

First Aired: 12/16/92

Writers: David / Marc Jaffe

Director: Cheronos

Summary: Nose picking and nipple baring are Jerry and Elaine's scarlet letters in an episode that also finds Kramer confronting designer Calvin Klein (Nicholas Hormann) over aromatic plagiarism and George getting Susan back—to his dismay.

8. THE ABSTINENCE

First Aired: 11/21/96

Writer: Steve Koren

Director: Ackerman

Summary: George's forced celibacy turns him into a Phenomenon-style brainiac. Elaine dates a doofus almost-doctor, Ben (Bob Odenkirk), and tries the no-sex route, with brain-draining results. Kramer's at-home smoking lounge ends in a tobacco-company lawsuit.

9. THE PEZ DISPENSER

First Aired: 1/15/92

Writer: David

Director: Cheronos

Summary: In order to obtain "hand" (as in the upper hand) in his relationship with a humorless concert pianist, George plans a "preemptive breakup." Jerry reluctantly participates in a friend's drug intervention. Kramer dreams up a cologne that smells like the beach.

10. THE BOYFRIEND

First Aired: 2/12/92

Writers: David/Larry Levin

Director: Cheronos

Summary: In the series' first hour-long edition, a chance locker-room meeting pulls Jerry into a friendship-cum-romance with New York Met Keith Hernandez (playing himself); when Elaine starts dating him, Jerry's not sure whom he's jealous of. Kramer and Newman have their own connection to the Game 6 legend—a fateful 1987 "assassination" incident outside Shea Stadium. Meanwhile, George "the chucker" is in full fraudulent swing as he tries to extend his unemployment benefits. ■

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- For having man hands.
- For having bad taste in commercials.
- For laughing too strangely.
- For not laughing at all.



Our 3 Editors' TOP 10 EPISODES of Seinfeld

Clearly, this was no easy task. Selecting ten of the best Seinfeld episodes proved to be one of the most challenging exercises our editors have ever accomplished. Just when we thought we had each finalized our top ten lists, someone would say, "What about the episode where..."

Everybody had their favorites, and some of the greatest lines appeared in episodes that didn't even make this list. But in the end, we tried to judge each episode in it's totality, not just based on some classic lines. Ultimately, we came up with three top ten lists we could live with:

■ Bradley Sean Editor-in-Chief

1. THE SOUP NAZI

First Aired: 11/2/95

Writer: Spike Feresten

Director: Tom Cherones

Summary: The excellence of a local soup merchant's product is exceeded only by his rigid guidelines for customer behavior. Jerry's incessant baby talk with a new chick drives a wedge between him and George. Antique collecting thugs terrorize Kramer.

2. THE BUBBLE BOY

First Aired: 10/07/92

Writer: Larry David

Director: Tom Cherones

Summary: Susan invites George, Jerry and Elaine up to her parents' cabin in "pie country." A Yoo-Hoo salesman guilt-trips Jerry into visiting his hermetically cocooned son on the way. When all is said and done, an enraged George has burst the bubble and a careless stogie puffing Kramer has burnt down the cabin.

3. THE YADA YADA

First Aired: 4/24/97

Writers: Peter Mehlman / Jill Franklyn

Director: Andy Ackerman

Summary: Conversation fudger "Yada yada" infects the group thanks to George's succinct, shoplifting girlfriend Marcy. Jerry suspects that dentist Tim has converted to Judaism purely for the jokes. After Elaine screws up an adoption opportunity for Beth—now married to Arnie—she sinks

to a new low to redeem herself. Kramer and Mickey squabble over double dates.

4. THE PONY REMARK

First Aired: 1/30/91

Writers: Larry David/Jerry Seinfeld

Director: Tom Cherones

Summary: At his elderly cousin Many's 50th anniversary party, Jerry makes a disparaging remark about people who had ponies as kids. When Many, a former pony owner, takes offense, and proceeds to drop dead, Jerry is racked with guilt.

5. THE CHICKEN ROASTER

First Aired: 11/14/96

Writer: Bergi Schaffer

Director: Andy Ackerman

Summary: Kramer's Newman-abetted Kenny Rogers' Roasters addiction overcomes his initial boycotting of the chain. Elaine's expense account abuse takes her to Burma in search of Peterman and sends George on a misguided pursuit of a hat saleswoman.

6. THE PIE

First Aired: 2/17/94

Writers: Gammill/Pross

Director: Tom Cherones

Summary: Jerry is plagued by issues of sharing (a girl refuses a taste of pie) and hygiene (resterateur/chef Poppie doesn't wash his hands after a stall visit). Elaine is incensed by a lookalike store mannequin.

7. THE INVITATIONS

First Aired: 5/16/96

Writer: Larry David

Director: Andy Ackerman

Summary: In the series' most controversial episode, Susan Biddle Ross dies from licking cheap wedding invitation envelopes, to George's extreme relief. Jerry meets his cereal loving, wise-cracking, Superman obsessed counterpart, Jeannie Steinman, and proposes marriage, to his immediate distress.

8. THE PILOT

First Aired: 5/20/93

Writer: Larry David

Director: Tom Cherones

Summary: Revolving around the casting (most notably Ellen's Jeremy Piven as George), taping and airing of the NBC pilot are Dalrimple's obsession with an uninterested Elaine, Kramer's constipation and George's cancer scare.

9. THE CHINESE RESTAURANT

First Aired: 5/23/91

Writers: Larry David/Jerry Seinfeld

Director: Tom Cherones

Summary: On route to a Plan Nine From Outer Space screening, Jerry, George and Elaine wait for a table in a Chinese restaurant.

10. THE IMPLANTS

First Aired: 2/25/93

Writers: Peter Mehlman

Director: Tom Cherones

Summary: Much mammarian speculation surrounds Jerry's current object of desire, Sidra (Lois & Clark's Terry Hatcher). George tries to use a funeral to

make headway with new girlfriend Betsy. Kramer swears he sees Salman Rushdie at a gym.

■ Calli Mason Associate Editor

1. THE BIZARRO JERRY

First Aired: 10/3/96

Writer: Mandel

Director: Ackerman

Summary: Jerry's whole system breaks down as George becomes a model magnet, Kramer becomes a nine-to-five suit, and Elaine takes up with a trio of new buds (Kevin, Gene, and Feldman), the sensitive, cerebral opposites of her current klatch. If that isn't enough, Jerry's dating Gillian (Kristin Bauer), a man-handed woman.

2. THE YADA YADA

First Aired: 4/24/97

Writers: Mehlman/ Jill Franklyn

Director: Ackerman

Summary: Conversation fudger "Yada, yada" infects the group thanks to George's succinct, shoplifting girlfriend Marcy (Suzanne Cryer). Jerry suspects that dentist Tim has converted to Judaism purely for the jokes. After Elaine screws up an adoption opportunity for Beth (125)—now married to Arnie (Stephen Caffrey)—she sinks to a new low redeeming herself. Kramer and Mickey squabble over double dates.

3. THE SPONGE

First Aired: 12/7/95

Writer: Mehlman

Director: Ackerman

Summary: After getting a woman's number off an AIDS

Chronicles

can't figure out what he wrote in his sleep (Flaming globes of Sig-mund). Jerry and George get hurt after ambulance drivers fight over a missing Chuckle.

14. The Deal 5/2/91 Jerry and Elaine establish a set of rules for This and That. Jerry gives Elaine cash as her birthday gift.

15. The Baby Shower 5/16/91 While he is getting an illegal cable hookup, Elaine holds a baby shower in Jerry's apt. George plans to confront a woman who embarrassed him on their only date but Jerry ends up being confronted by a woman who he said he'd call but never did.

16. The Chinese Restaurant 5/23/91 This is classic Seinfeld. George, Jerry, and Elaine wait for a table in a Chinese Restaurant and end up missing Plan 9 From Outer Space.

17. The Busboy 6/26/91 Accidentally, George saves a busboy's life who he got fired. Elaine's unwanted house guest won't leave.

Season 3 (The first full season - 23 episodes including the first one-hour show)

18. The Note 9/18/91 To have their insurance pay for massages, George, Jerry, and Elaine get notes from a dentist friend. Jerry scares his masseuse by talking about a kidnapped kid. George thinks IT moved when he got his massage. Kramer says he saw Joe DiMaggio at Dinky Donuts.

19. The Truth 9/25/91 Jerry is getting audited. George's girlfriend is an ex-IRS agent so Jerry gives her his records. George then dumps her and she forces him to tell her the truth about why. Checking into a mental hospital, she throws away Jerry's records. Elaine's roommate and Kramer are dating. He sees Elaine naked.

20. The Pen 10/2/91 Being on a bad sofa bed ends up with Jerry and Elaine having a poor nights sleep while visiting Jerry's parents in Florida. An astronaut pen causes a stir. Jerry accepts from Jack Komplis. Morty retires from President of the Condo Association.

21. The Dog 10/9/91 Jerry gets stuck taking care of a dog owned by some drunk he met on an airplane. Jerry, George, and Elaine plan on going to see a movie but when Jerry can't go, George and Elaine find it uncomfortable to spend time alone. Kramer tries to break up with his girlfriend.

22. The Library 10/16/91 A library policeman hounds Jerry. He is supposed to return "Tropic of Capricorn" - overdue since 1971. Jerry calls on his girlfriend at the time to prove that he did return the book but ends up remembering that he had given the book to George. George runs into the gym teacher that caused him to lose the book by giving him a wedgie. Kramer entices the spinster librarian.

23. The Parking Garage 10/30/91 This episode involves the gang



spending all their time looking for Kramer's car in a mall parking garage. Urinating, George and Jerry get arrested. Elaine's fish die while Kramer has to lug around an air conditioner.

24. The Cafe 11/6/91 Baboo, an immigrant restaurant owner, makes friends with Jerry. This guy never has any customers. Elaine takes an IQ test for George but ends up doing bad. They get caught cheating when they try it a second time.

25. The Tape 11/13/91 While Jerry is performing, he gets an erotic message on his tape recorder. George hears of a Chinese cure for baldness and has Ping order it for him. When George finds out that it was Elaine that left the message he falls in love with her.

26. The Nose Job 11/20/91 George's beautiful date with a huge nose gets a nose job after

Kramer tells her to get one. Only it turns out bad so George breaks up with her. Kramer uses Elaine to get a jacket from his mom's boyfriend. Jerry is dating a hot chick who is totally stupid. His brain plays chess against his penis to see whether she stays.

27. The Stranded 11/27/91 Revenge at the drugstore is the idea when George gets short changed there. A party on Long Island is attended by Jerry and Elaine with George. Only to be stuck there when George takes a woman home. The party host stops by Jerry's apartment to kill some time but Jerry has to leave. George tries to steal and gets arrested. Jerry returns home to find that the host has had a call girl there and then Jerry gets arrested for solicitation.

28. The Alternate Side 12/4/91 Jerry's car gets stolen and he has



trouble getting a rental. George takes over parking cars for the tenants but can't handle it. Kramer gets to be in a Woody Allen movie. Elaine dates an older man who has a stroke just before she can dump him.

29. The Red Dot 12/11/91 Elaine gets George a job so he buys her a cashmere sweater with a slight flaw. Jerry accidentally gives Elaine's boyfriend a drink not knowing he is an alcoholic. George has sex with the cleaning lady and gives her the sweater to shut her up.

30. The Subway 1/8/92 Everyone has an adventure on the subway. Elaine gets stuck and misses a lesbian wedding. Kramer gets a tip on a horse and then almost gets robbed of his winnings. George meets a beautiful woman and she robs him at her hotel room. Jerry meets a naked man and goes to Coney Island with him.

31. The Pez Dispenser 1/15/92 Jerry makes Elaine laugh at George's girlfriend's piano recital. George gets "hand" by breaking up with her before she could break up with him. Kramer invents "The Beach." The comedy gang holds an intervention for a friend on drugs.

32. The Suicide 1/29/92 Jerry dates his neighbor's girlfriend when he goes into a coma. George lets Kramer go on his dream vacation because a psychic starts to warn him about something bad. Elaine breaks her fast by eating Newman's Drakes Coffee Cake.

33. The Fix-up 2/5/92 Elaine and Jerry fix up George and a friend by describing their best features. Kramer gives George a condom that ends up being bad and George thinks he gets the girl pregnant.

34. & 35. The New Friend: The Boyfriend (Part 1), Of Mastodons and Men (Part 2) 2/12/92 One hour episode where Jerry befriends Keith Hernandez and acts like they are dating each other. George tells the employment agency that he had an interview at Vandelay Industries. Keith goes out with Elaine but she dumps him when she finds out he smokes. Jerry and Kramer go see the baby. Jerry breaks it off with Keith when he asks him to help him move.

36. The Limo 2/26/92 Jerry and George takes someone else's limo from the airport and are mistaken for leaders of the Aryan Union.

37. The Good Samaritan 3/4/92 Jerry sees a hit and run accident. He ends up dating the woman he confronts. Kramer has a seizure whenever he hears Mary Hart's voice.

Jerry tries to tell the hit and run victim what happened, only she ends up thinking he did it. Elaine tells of having a fling with a matador. George says "God bless you" to a married woman and ends up sleeping with her.

38. The Letter 3/25/92 Jerry's girlfriend paints "The Kramer" and then plagiarizes a movie in a letter she writes to him. Elaine wears an Orioles baseball cap to the Yankee's game and refuses to take it off.

39. The Parking Space 4/22/92 George fights over a parking space with a friend of Kramer's that thinks Jerry is a phony.

40. The Keys 5/6/92 Jerry takes his own apartment keys back from Kramer. Kramer is using it too much. He then takes his keys and gives them to George. George takes his keys from Elaine to give to Kramer but doesn't give Jerry Elaine's keys. Kramer decides to pursue his acting bug in Los Angeles.

Season 4 (24 episodes including 2 two-parters and 2 hour-long shows)

1. The Trip (Part 1) 8/12/92 Jerry is performing on the Tonight Show so he takes George to California with him so they can look for Kramer. George thinks he is real popular when he talks to George Wendt and Corbin Bernsen back stage. Kramer is trying to make it as an actor but ends up the key suspect in a murder.

2. The Trip (Part 2) 8/19/92 George and Jerry try to help Kramer get out of jail and he finally gets released when another murder is committed while he is behind bars. Jerry and George can't talk Kramer into coming back but a couple days later he shows up in New York.

43. & 44. The Pitch / The Ticket 9/16/92 George and Jerry pitch their show about nothing to NBC. George starts dating Susan but then Kramer throws up on her. Kramer trades Newman a radar detector for a motorcycle helmet. The helmet saves his life when he is kicked in the head by Crazy Joe Divola. Newman gets a speeding ticket and

Some tasty Dialogue:

■ We learn that ELAINE needs SEX in order to be SMART, and George needs to AVOID sex in order to be smart.

■ But what does Kramer need in order to be smart?

■ **Kramer:** "Brain food, Jerry."

■ **Jerry:** "What kind of brain food? You mean fish, right?"

■ **Kramer:** "No, Jerry. Fish are dumb. I mean people!"

■ **Jerry:** "You eat... people?"



■ **Kramer:** "Just the smart ones. Wouldn't do me any good to eat the dumb ones, would it?"

■ **Jerry:** "I don't know...."

■ **Kramer:** "Eating a bum, that's dumb, that would be like eating junk food, Jerry."

■ **Jerry:** "How do you eat..."

■ **Kramer:** "People? It depends on who I'm having. If it's a scientist, they're kind of dry, I try to turn them into a stew. Lawyers, on the other hand, leave a bad aftertaste in the mouth, so I have to dilute them with peppers, onions, and the occasional nobel prize winner."...

The Seinfeld Chronicles

makes Kramer his alibi.

45. The Wallet (Part 1) 9/23/92 Morty thinks someone stole his wallet at the doctor's office. Kramer acts as Elaine's boyfriend so that she can dump her boyfriend/shrink. George passes on the pilot.

46. The Watch (Part 2) 9/30/92 George tries to bargain with NBC. Jerry tries to get his watch back from Uncle Leo.

47. The Bubble Boy 10/7/92 Jerry agrees to visit a boy in a bubble on his way upstate with Elaine, George, and Susan. George loses Jerry and ends up getting in a fight with the bubble boy. Kramer burns down Susan's father's cabin. Jerry and George describe the pies.

48. The Cheever Letters 10/28/92 Susan's dad is found to be gay when letters are discovered at the burned cabin. Kramer tries to get more cigars from the Cuban Embassy. Jerry hates talking to Elaine's secretary but ends up talking dirty with her. Jerry and George start writing the pilot.

49. The Opera 11/4/92 Elaine is dating Crazy Joe Divola but doesn't find out until she and Jerry are at the opera. Crazy Joe puts the kibosh on Jerry and then dresses up as the sad clown. Kramer and George try to scalp tickets.

50. The Virgin 11/11/92 Elaine upsets Jerry's virgin girlfriend and then causes Ping to wreck. George gets Susan fired when he kisses her before a meeting.

51. The Contest 11/18/92 Jerry, George, Kramer, and Elaine have a contest to see who can hold out the longest. Elaine meets John F. Kennedy, Jr. Jerry loses the virgin when he tells her about the contest and she ends up with JFK. Kramer ends up with the naked neighbor.

52. The Airport 11/25/92 Jerry flies first class while Elaine flies coach. George and Kramer wait for them at the airport. George upsets a notorious criminal and gets stuck on a flight when trying to scam free tickets. Jerry meets a Calvin Klein model.

53. The Pick 12/16/92 Jerry is accused of picking his nose by the Calvin Klein model. Elaine sends out Christmas cards showing her nipple. Calvin Klein comes out with a new cologne called "The Ocean" stealing Kramer's idea (see episode 31) but then Kramer does an underwear ad for them.

54. The Movie 1/6/93 Jerry tries to juggle a couple of performances and

going to the movies. Elaine, Kramer, and George wait at the theater.

55. The Visa 1/27/93 George is dating the lawyer who is handling Ping's case against Elaine. Jerry tries not to be funny so that George will have a better shot with the lawyer but she ends up being attracted to Jerry because he is dark and mysterious. Baboo is deported when his visa renewal is placed in Jerry's mailbox and Elaine doesn't give Jerry his mail for a long while. Kramer punches Micky Mantle at fantasy camp.

56. The Shoes 2/4/93 Kramer snubs an old girlfriend of Jerry's and then ends up kissing her. George is caught looking at cleavage. Elaine gives up her shoes to help Jerry get the pilot back and then shows her "ketchup secret" to the president of NBC.

57. The Outing 2/11/93 George and Jerry are thought to be gay, not that there is anything wrong with that!

8. The Old Man 2/18/93 George, Jerry, and Elaine volunteer to help senior citizens. Kramer and Newman try to make money selling used records.

59. The Implant 2/25/93 Elaine tells Jerry that the woman he is dating has implants so he dumps her. When she finds out that they are real Jerry gets back with her but then gets dumped. George goes to a funeral with his girlfriend and tries to get a half priced fare. George double dips!

60. The Junior Mint 3/18/93 Jerry doesn't know the name of the woman he is dating except that it rhymes with a female body part. Elaine goes to see an old boyfriend who is about to have surgery. Kramer and Jerry go to witness the surgery and end up dropping a Jr. Mint inside of him that miraculously saves him. George buys some of his art because he thinks he is going to die.

61. The Smelly Car 4/15/93 A valet leaves a terrible BO in Jerry's car. George finds out that Susan has become a lesbian and then Kramer steals her girlfriend.

62. The Handicap Spot 5/13/93 There are two versions of this one!!! Kramer advises George to park in a handicap spot while buying an engagement present for "The Drake." A disabled woman has an accident and an angry mob destroys George's father's car. Kramer falls in love with the disabled woman. George becomes his dad's butler.

63. & 64. The Pilot 5/20/93 Audi-

Classic Kramer Lines from Seinfeld:

- "These pretzels are making me thirsty!"
- "I'm out of the contest."
- "I'm a hipster doofus."
- "Who would refuse a Junior Mint?"
- "I'm Cosmo Kramer, the Assman!"
- "I have the body of a taut pre-teen Swedish boy."
- "I can't be with someone whose whole life is in shambles."
- "Cause I'm like ice, buddy. When I don't like you, you got problems."



tions are held for the pilot of Jerry's sitcom. Kramer gets constipated. George thinks he has cancer because of a slight discoloration on his lip. Elaine accuses the owner of Monk's of only hiring large breasted women. "Jerry" is premiered and then canceled when Russell joins Green Peace.

Season 5 (22 episodes with one one-hour show)

- 65. The Mango 9/16/93** Jerry learns that Elaine faked her orgasms and wants one more shot. George experiences impotence. Kramer gets banned from the fruit store and has Jerry try to buy his fruit for him. George is cured when he eats some mango.
- 66. The Puffy Shirt 9/23/93** Kramer is dating a low-talker and Jerry agrees to wear the pirate shirts she made on the Today show because he couldn't hear what she was asking him. George moves in with his parents but then is discovered as a hand model.
- 67. The Glasses 9/30/93** George thinks his glasses were stolen and he ends up buying women's frames. George tells Jerry he saw his girlfriend kissing his cousin Jeffery. Elaine is bit by a rabid dog. Kramer gets George a discount on his glasses because he got the optometrist off sugar.
- 68. The Sniffing Accountant 10/7/93** Jerry thinks his accountant is doing drugs. George interviews to be a bra salesman. Elaine breaks up with Jake Jarmel because he didn't use an exclamation point in a message he left.
- 69. The Bris 10/14/93** Elaine and Jerry are chosen as godparents, and help with the bris. George's car gets damaged by someone committing suicide. Kramer tries to save the pigman he finds in the hospital.
- 70. The Lip Reader 10/28/93** Kramer becomes a ball boy for the U.S. Open. Jerry dates a deaf lineswoman and George uses her to read the lips of the woman who just dumped him. Elaine says she is deaf to avoid talking to a chauffeur.
- 71. The Non-Fat Yogurt 11/4/93** Jerry and Elaine have non-fat yogurt tested. Jerry swears in front of a little boy and then apologizes but swears again. George is caught nudging someone to avoid talking to a childhood friend that is now the mayor's assistant. He claims to have arm spasms.
- 72. The Barber 11/11/93** Jerry gets a bad haircut and then goes behind his barber's back to try to get it

fixed. George gets a job, of course.

73. The Masseuse 11/18/93 Jerry dates a masseuse who won't give him a massage and hates George. Elaine dates Joel Rifkin and tries to get him to change his name.

74. The Cigar-Store Indian 12/9/93 Jerry offends a native American Indian friend of Elaine's with his gift. Elaine takes Frank's TV Guide and meets a strange person on the subway. George has to get his parents coffee table fixed and Kramer gets the idea for a coffee table book about coffee tables.

75. The Conversion 12/16/93 George converts to Latvian Orthodox for his girlfriend but then she moves away. Jerry thinks his girlfriend has fungus. Kramer has the Kavorka.

76. The Stall 1/6/94 Jerry's girlfriend can't spare a square of toilet paper to Elaine. Elaine is dating a mimbo and George falls in love with him. Kramer uses Jerry's phone to call for phone sex and it turns out to be Jerry's girlfriend.

77. The Dinner Party 2/3/94 The whole gang is heading to a dinner party and they need something to bring. Jerry and Elaine have trouble getting a Chocolate Bobka. George has a new gortex coat that causes him to break some bottles of wine.

78. The Marine Biologist 2/10/94 A definite top ten! A woman Jerry and George know from college asks about George so Jerry tells her that he is a marine biologist. A Russian writer throws Elaine's electronic organizer out the car window and hits a woman in the head. Golden Boy is Jerry's favorite shirt but it doesn't make it through the wash. Kramer hits golf balls at the beach.

79. The Pie 2/17/94 Jerry's date won't taste his apple pie. Then Jerry won't taste the pizza her father made because he didn't wash his hands. Elaine resembles a mannequin at a store where George is trying to get a suit half price. (mannequin made by strange guy in #74)

80. The Stand-In 2/24/94 Kramer's midget friend Mickey gets caught using lifts to keep his job as a stand in. George is accused of not committing. Elaine dates a friend of Jerry's who took IT out.

81. The Wife 3/17/94 Jerry pretends to be married to share a discount he receives at the dry cleaners. George gets spotted peeing in the shower by a guy who gives Elaine mixed signals. Kramer doesn't look good because his quilt is still at the cleaners so he

Some Classic Jerry Lines:

- "Hello Newman!"
- "The mohel circumcized my finger!"
- "It's a game of world domination played by two people who can't run their own lives."
- "Why are fish so thin? They only eat fish."
- "I can't go to a bad movie by myself. What, am I gonna make sarcastic remarks to strangers?"
- "I'm going to hire you as my latex salesman? I don't think so."
- "There had to be a second spitter!"
- "The woman had an orgasm under false pretenses. That's sexual perjury!"
- "She had man hands!"
- "I'm dating a virgin, I'm in a contest, something's gotta give!"

goes to a tanning bed before he meets his girlfriend's parents.

82. & 83. The Raincoats 4/28/94 George is asked to be a big brother. Elaine is dating a close talker that is obsessed with helping Jerry's parents. Kramer and Morty try to sell raincoats to the used clothing store. Jerry makes out during Schindler's List.

84. The Fire 5/5/94 George acts like a coward in front of his girlfriend. Jerry is heckled by a woman Elaine works with so he goes to her office and heckles her. She gets upset and runs in front of a street sweeper that severs her pinkie toe. Kramer drives the bus to save the toe.

85. The Hamptons 5/12/94 George's girlfriend is seen topless by everyone but him. George is seen naked after being in the pool and tries to explain about shrinkage. Kramer gets caught stealing lobsters. Elaine is interested in a doctor that refers to everything as "breath taking."

86. The Opposite 5/19/94 A definite top ten. George tries to do the opposite of his instincts. Elaine loses everything because of Jujufruits. Jerry is even Steven. Kramer gets his coffee table book published.

Season 6 (24 episodes include a 1 hour highlights show)

87. The Chaperone 9/22/94 Jerry dates Miss Rhode Island while Kramer tries to help her in the pageant. George suggests cotton uniforms for the Yankees. Elaine is told she has no grace but then gets a job with Mr. Pitt.

88. The Big Salad 9/29/94 Jerry is dating a woman that Newman dumped. George buys Elaine a big salad and then gets upset when his girlfriend takes credit for it. Gednison cheats at golf and then kills the drycleaner.

89. The Pledge Drive 10/6/94 Elaine's friend Noreen dates a high talker and Jerry thinks she hit on him. Jerry cashes some old checks that his grandma had sent him. Everyone starts eating their Snickers with a fork. Jerry volunteers to host a pledge drive for PBS and George gets Danny Tartabull to be on it.

90. The Chinese Woman 10/13/94 Jerry dates a woman that he thought was Chinese. Noreen is now dating a long talker. Kramer has to give up his briefs because his sperm count is low. George's parents are getting divorced.

91. The Couch 10/27/94 Jerry gets a new couch which Poppy pees on. Elaine dates the delivery man until she finds out he's not Pro Choice. George tries to watch the movie of the book he is supposed to be reading for his girlfriend's book club.

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92. The Gymnast 11/3/94

George gets three strikes against him in his latest relationship. Jerry wants to have sex with a woman because she is a gymnast. She wants to have sex with him because he is a comedian. Kramer passes a kidney stone. Mr. Pitt is entranced by 3-D art and sends Elaine to a meeting for him.

93. The Soup 11/10/94 Jerry gets a free suit but has to take the guy out to dinner. George dates a waitress who becomes disinterested. Elaine meets someone in England who comes over and mooches off her.

94. The Mom and Pop Store 11/17/94 George buys a car because he thinks Jon Voight once owned it. Jerry crashes a party during Thanksgiving Day parade. Kramer gives all Jerry's shoes to a shoemaker to fix and they go out of business. Mr. Pitt helps with the Woody Woodpecker balloon.

95. The Secretary 12/8/94 George hires a secretary because she is not good looking and then gives her a raise during sex. Jerry spots the drycleaner wearing his clothes. Elaine accuses a store of having skinny mirrors. Kramer sells his clothes.

96. The Race 12/15/94 Kramer gets a job as Santa. Elaine dates a communist and gets black listed. Jerry must defend his speed reputation from high school.

97. The Switch 1/5/95 A definite top ten. Kramer's first name is finally revealed. Elaine lends Mr. Pitt's tennis racket and has trouble getting it back. George thinks his girlfriend is bulimic. Jerry and George try to devise a way for Jerry to pull the roommate switch.

98. The Label Maker 1/19/95 Jerry's superbowl tickets get passed around. George dates a woman who has a male roommate. Kramer and Newman play risk. Elaine investigates a re-gifter.

99. The Scofflaw 1/26/95 A guy Jerry knows fakes that he has cancer to get sympathy. Elaine gets back at Jake Jarmel by buying the same frames as him. George gets a hair piece. Kramer interferes when a cop was just about to catch an illegal parker that has been eluding him for

years (Newman).

100. & 101. Highlights of a Hundred 2/2/95 A one hour special celebrating the first hundred episodes.

102. The Beard 2/9/95 Elaine acts as a girlfriend for a gay friend and then tries to get him to switch teams. George gains confidence because of his hair hat. Jerry dates a policewoman who gets him to admit that he watches Melrose Place.

103. The Kiss Hello 2/16/95 Kramer puts up pictures of everyone in the building and Jerry puts an end to everyone kissing him hello. George is charged for canceling an appointment and then tries to charge the doctor when she cancels.

104. The Doorman 2/23/95 Jerry is bothered by the doorman in Mr. Pitt's building. Kramer gets the idea for a male bra when he sees George's father's hooters.

105. The Jimmy 3/16/95 Jerry and George meet a guy who refers to himself in the first person. Kramer is thought to be mentally handicapped and gets to meet Mel Torme. Jerry thinks he might have been violated at the dentists.

106. The Doodle 4/6/95 Jerry has fleas. A woman George dates draws an unflattering picture of him so he has Elaine find out if she likes him. She does and she doesn't care how he looks. The Seinfelds stay in a fancy hotel suite that was provided for Elaine from the company she is interviewing with.

107. The Fuscilli Jerry 4/27/95 A top ten. Jerry lets Elaine's boyfriend in on his "move" but then gets upset when he uses it. George needs a "move" so he takes notes on Jerry's. Kramer accidentally gets plates that read "ASSMAN." Kramer makes a statue of Jerry out of fuscilli and George's dad sits on it.

108. The Diplomat's Club 5/4/95 Jerry's agent is driving him crazy and causes problems with their return from an out of town show. Elaine almost quits her job but then gets fired when they think she is trying to kill Mr. Pitt. Kramer starts betting again.

109. The Face Painter 5/11/95 George says "I love you" but gets no response. Kramer gets in a



fight with a monkey at the zoo. Elaine is dating a guy who paints his face for hockey games. Jerry gets free hockey tickets but doesn't call to say thanks.

110. The Understudy 5/18/95 Jerry is dating Bette Midler's understudy and always has to comfort her. George runs over Bette in a softball game and Kramer takes care of her. Elaine thinks the manicurists are making fun of her so she takes George's father with her to translate.

Season 7 (24 episodes with 2 one-hour shows)

111. The Engagement 9/21/95 George and Jerry agree to change their lives so George gets engaged to Susan. Elaine wants to get rid of a barking dog so she gets Kramer and Newman to help.

112. The Postponement 9/28/95 George gets Susan to postpone the wedding date. Elaine is jealous of George and confides in a rabbi who lives in her building. He then proceeds to tell everyone. Kramer sneaks Cafe Latte into the theater and spills it all over himself.

113. The Maestro 10/5/95 Kramer sues the coffee shop because the Cafe Latte was too hot. Elaine dates a man who insists on being called the Maestro. George thinks a security guard should be allowed to sit down. Jerry rents a house in Tuscany.

114. The Wink 10/12/95 George gets squirted in the eye by a grapefruit and can't stop winking at all the inappropriate times. Jerry tries not to eat meat while dating Elaine's cousin. Elaine's wake up service goes bad when she starts dating the caller.

115. The Hot Tub 10/19/95 Jerry tries to help Elaine's friend make it to the marathon on time. Kramer gets a hot tub. George acts annoyed so that he looks busy at work. He then meets with some bastards from Texas.

116. The Soup Nazi 11/2/95 Everyone wants soup from a guy with very strict ordering procedures. George and Elaine are bothered by how affectionate Jerry is with his new girlfriend. Elaine buys an armoire, gets it stolen, and then gets one that belonged to the Soup Nazi that contains all his recipes.

117. The Secret Code 11/9/95 George won't tell anyone his ATM code. Jerry's foot keeps falling

asleep and it gets him in trouble with a handicapped store owner. Kramer tries to help the fire department. Elaine is interested in a boring guy just because he forgets her.

118. The Pool Guy 11/16/95 Jerry gets rid of an annoying pool attendant who wants to be his friend. Elaine and Susan go out and George's worlds are colliding. Kramer becomes the movie guide.

119. The Sponge 12/7/95 Elaine has to be picky about her partners when her birth control is in short supply. George has to tell Susan everything. Kramer walks for AIDS but refuses to wear the red ribbon.

120. The Gum 12/14/95 Kramer opens an old movie theater and befriends a childhood friend of George's (see The Non-Fat Yogurt) that had a nervous breakdown. Kramer forces Jerry to help by wearing glasses and buying gum. Elaine tries not to lead the guy on because she feels partly responsible for the breakdown. Another old friend of George's thinks he's is mentally ill.

121. The Rye 1/4/96 George tries to replace a rye bread that his father took back from Susan's parents after their dinner. Elaine is dating a musician and word gets back to him that she thinks they are Hot-n-Heavy.

122. The Caddy 1/25/96 George leaves his car at Yankee stadium and his boss thinks he is putting in long hours. Kramer trusts his caddy's every decision. Elaine meets an old friend who never wears a bra so she gets her one for her birthday. The friend then starts wearing just a bra and causes Kramer to wreck.

123. The Seven 2/1/96 George tells Susan he wants to name his kid Seven. Jerry dates a girl who always wears the same dress. Elaine's little girls bike is given to Kramer as payment for fixing her neck. Kramer tabs up the stuff for stuff he takes from Jerry.

124. & 125. The Cadillac 2/8/96 Everyone is surprised at how much money Jerry makes. Jerry buys his father a Cadillac and then Morty gets impeached because they think he has been stealing. George gets fixed up with Marissa Tomei. Kramer keeps the cable man waiting.

126. The Shower Head 2/15/96 Jerry's parents won't go back to Florida because George convinced his parents to move there. Elaine tests positive for Opium

Classic Elaine Lines from Seinfeld:

- "I gotta get some new friends."
- "Movie hot dogs? I'd rather lick the food off the floor."
- "I could drop you like a bag of dirt."
- "Well, I'd watch the third base coach if I were you 'cause I don't think he's waving you in."
- "You think you can pose me however you want? That's my ass in your window!"
- "It's not fair that people are seated first-come, first-serve. It should be based on who's hungriest."
- "The Soup Nazi threw me out!"
- "Kramer, you don't understand. He made the last contact between us. I had the upper hand in the post-breakup relationship!"



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several times because she is eating poppy seeds. Low-Flow shower heads are installed in the building and Jerry and Kramer don't like it.

127. The Doll 2/22/96 Susan has a doll that resembles George's mother. Jerry carries a package home for a friend of Susan's and he breaks his BBQ sauce that he was using for a bit. Frank turns George's room into a pool hall and the Maestro and Kramer play in their underwear. Elaine tries to get an autograph of the third tenor.

128. The Friar's Club 3/7/96 George fixes Jerry up with Susan's best friend but he has to borrow a jacket at the Friar's Club. Jerry forgets to return the jacket and he thinks the Gypsies stole it. Kramer tries to sleep 20 minutes at a time. Elaine thinks a co-worker is pretending to be deaf to get out of work.

129. The Wig Master 4/4/96 Jerry is annoyed because people keep hitting on the person he is with. Elaine and a salesman are working each other. George and Kramer park their cars in a cheap lot and the cars are used by hookers.

130. The Calzone 4/28/96 Jerry is

dating a woman that gets anything she wants. Mr. Steinbrenner gets hooked on calzones when he tries George's and now he doesn't make a move without George. George doesn't get credit for his tip at the calzone shop. Elaine is going out with someone who uses a dating loophole. Kramer will only wear warm clothes.

131. & 132. The Bottle Deposit 5/2/96 Not knowing what it is or how it's to get done, George gets an assignment. Jerry's mechanic steals his car because he is not taking care of it. J. Peterman buys JFK's golf clubs. Unfortunately, Elaine leaves them in the back of Jerry's car. Kramer and Newman use a mail truck to take bottles to Michigan but The Mechanic ends up getting chased by Kramer and Newman.

133. The Wait Out 5/9/96 Jerry and Elaine have been waiting for a marriage to break up so that they can move in. George helps by making a folksy remark. Kramer gets new jeans that he can't get out of. Elaine's driving makes Jerry sick.

134. The Invitations 5/16/96 George tries to figure out ways to get out of getting married. Kramer

calls Susan "Lilly" and now he and Elaine are nothing in the wedding. Jerry gets engaged to someone just like him. Susan dies from licking the wedding invitations.

Season 8 (22 episodes)

135. The Foundation 9/19/96 Susan's parents start a foundation in her honor with George on the board. Jerry studies the perfect breakup story. Kramer learns karate against some unworthy opponents. Elaine gets appointed president of J. Peterman.

136. The Soul Mate 9/26/96 Kramer likes Jerry's girlfriend and goes to Newman for advice. George thinks the foundation suspects him of killing Susan. Elaine doesn't want to have a baby.

137. The Bizarro Jerry 10/3/96 Elaine's new friends are the opposite of the old ones. Jerry dates a girl with big hands. George enters the forbidden city using his breakup story. Kramer starts a job, sort of...

138. The Little Kicks 10/10/96 Elaine's co-workers lose respect for her after she dances at a company party. George is the "bad boy" in order to attract a woman.

Jerry is forced to bootleg movies by a friend of Kramer.

139. The Package 10/17/96 Kramer tries to get Jerry a refund for his broken stereo by mailing it with insurance. Elaine's medical record says she is difficult. George seduces photo shop girl at Kramer's suggestion.

140. The Fatigues 10/31/96 Elaine promotes the mail room psycho instead of firing him. Jerry's girlfriend has a mentor who dates Bania (The Soup). Kramer needs Frank to help him cook for Jewish singles night. George tries books-on-tape to learn risk management.

141. The Checks 11/7/96 Elaine's boyfriend is moved by a song. Jerry gets lots of small royalty checks. George can't get recruited by a cult. Kramer helps out Japanese tourists.

142. The Chicken Roaster 11/14/96 Elaine misuses the Peterman expense account. George leaves things behind in order to get another date. Jerry's college buddy gets fired and starts working at chicken roaster across the street. Kramer switches apartments with Jerry until he gets hooked on chicken.



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143. The Abstinence 11/21/96

George has to stop having sex and he suddenly becomes smart. Elaine is dating someone who is almost a doctor. Jerry gets bumped from career day at his Jr. High and it affects his career. Kramer opens a smokers lounge and starts to age.

144. The Andrea Doria 12/19/96

George tells his life story in order to get an apartment in place of an Andria Doria survivor. Elaine dates a guy who is bad at breaking up. Jerry delivers mail to help get rid of Newman. Kramer goes to a vet to get rid of his cough.

145 The Little Jerry 1/9/97

Jerry bounces a check at the market and everyone finds out. Kramer gets a rooster for fresh eggs and names him Jerry Seinfeld. Elaine dates a man who shaves his head. George dates a prisoner.

146 The Money 1/16/97

Jerry has to re-buy the cadillac for his parents. George finds out his parents are loaded. Kramer needs to get some sleep after sex. Elaine hires Morty to work at J. Peterman.

147 The Comeback 1/30/97

George gets zinged at a meeting and wants to use his comeback. Elaine "connects" with video store employee. Kramer wants a living will. Jerry gets taken by a tennis shop pro.

148. The Van Buren Boys 2/6/97

George interviews people for the foundation scholarship. Mr. Peterman buys Kramer's stories for his autobiography. Jerry dates someone who is socially challenged.

149. The Susie 2/13/97

Elaine has an alter ego at work that is causing problems. George gets dumped through Kramer. Kramer bets with Jerry's money and then thinks Jerry roughed up the bookie (Mike from The Parking Space).

150. The Pothole 2/20/97

George goes to extreme measures to recover his lost key chain. Elaine goes to extreme measures to get Chinese food delivered. Jerry goes to extreme measures to avoid germs with his new girlfriend. Kramer adopts a mile of highway but gets too involved.

151. The English Patient 3/13/97

Jerry goes to Florida to help his parents move and ends up in a competition with an old man. Elaine is an outcast for not liking "The English Patient." Kramer has Jerry pick up some Cubans (cig-

ars) but they end up being Dominicans (people). George plots to replace a beautiful woman's boyfriend whom he is mistaken for.

152. The Nap 4/10/97 George has some adjustments made to his desk. Jerry gets his kitchen redone but it's a little too much. Kramer takes to swimming in the river because it's less crowded. Elaine meets someone who is concerned about her back.

153. The Yada Yada 4/24/97 George's new girlfriend skips the details in her stories. Jerry gets offended when Dr. Watty converts to Judaism. Elaine tries to help her friends adopt. Kramer and Mickey can't decide who gets which girl on a double date.

154. The Millennium 5/1/97 Kramer's millennium party clashes with Newman's. Elaine tries to hurt a store's business. George tries to get fired. Jerry is obsessed with his position on his girlfriend's speed dial.

155. The Muffin Tops 5/8/97 Elaine's muffin tops are big business. George pretends he is a tourist to get a girl. Jerry takes shaving a bit too far. Kramer gives tours of the "real" Peterman's life.

156. The Summer of George 5/15/97 George prepares for a great summer. Elaine gets catty with a co-worker. Kramer accidentally gets a Tony award and then has to earn it. Jerry and George team up in a relationship.

Season 9

157. The Butter Shave 9/25/97 Jerry is upset. Bania (The Soup) is riding his coattails so that Jerry takes a dive. Kramer starts using butter instead of shaving cream and ends up sauteed. George takes full advantage of his new boss who thinks he is handicapped. Elaine has a bad trip to Europe with David Puddy (The Fuscilli Jerry).

158. The Voice 10/2/97 Jerry has to decide between his new girlfriend or doing a funny voice. He chooses the voice but then changes his mind when the gang is tired of doing it. George's boss tries to get him to quit but he is no match for George. Elaine back slides and end up with Puddy again and again... Kramer gets an intern for "Kramerica" to help him run his

daily business.

159. The Serenity Now 10/9/97

Jerry's girlfriend tries to get him to let out his anger but once he lets one emotion out they all come out. George starts working for his father selling computers out of the garage but has to compete with Lloyd Braun. (The Gum) Kramer gets a screen door and turns his apartment into Anytown, USA but he runs into trouble with the neighborhood kids. Jewish men are attracted to Elaine because she has "Shiksappeal." Frank learns to calm down by saying "serenity now".

160. The Blood 10/16/97 George tries to combine food, sex, and TV. Kramer decides to keep his blood at home and ends up donating some to Jerry. Elaine wants to prove that she is responsible. Jerry's parents hire him a personal trainer...Izzy Mandlebaum!!! (The English Patient)

161. The Junk Mail 10/30/97

Kramer tries to cancel his mail. Jerry gets a free van through a childhood friend but the guy gets upset when he doesn't like it. Elaine loves a guy who is a TV pitchman. George's parents start ditching him.

162. The Merv Griffin Show 11/06/97

Kramer finds the set of the Merv Griffin Show in a dumpster and starts hosting people. Elaine tries to get back at a new co-worker who siddles. Jerry finds a way to play with his new girlfriend's awesome toy collection. George thought he had a deal with

the pigeons.

163. The Slicer 11/13/97 Kramer buys a meat slicer in order to get a good sandwich. Jerry tries a revenge date with a dermatologist who calls herself a life saver. Elaine's neighbor leaves her alarm on so she blows her fuse. George tries to remove himself from the background of a picture on his new boss' desk.

164. The Betrayal 11/20/97

165. The Apology 12/11/97

166. The Strike 12/18/97 12 years later after striking it, Kramer returns to work at a bagel store. Frank revives Festivus, a holiday he invented when George was a child. Jerry dates a girl who is attractive one day, ugly the next. Elaine gives a fake phone number on the back of a sub card that needed just one more stamp. George's Christmas gifts are donations to a fake charity.

167. The Dealership 1/8/98 Jerry is supposed to get the inside deal on his new car but runs into trouble when Elaine dumps Puddy. Kramer wants to see how Jerry's new car is going to fit his everyday life. George is starving but can't get anything from the candy machine.

168. The Reverse Peephole 1/15/98

Kramer and Newman reverse their peepholes. They want to avoid being attacked. Jerry goes on a wallet diet and ends up switching to a European Carryall. Elaine tries to get rid of Puddy's man fur. A vibrating chair that was supposed to be a gift is kept by George. ■

Classic Newman Lines from Seinfeld:

- "Hmmm, that job sounds like it might be worth a year's free haircuts, and a comb."
- "Do you wanna know why you can't go in front first, I'll tell you why, because it signals a breakdown in the social order, CHAOS, it reduces us to jungle law."
- "I'm sure if we put our three heads together we will come up with something."
- "Jambalaya!"